

March 2019

Hello, Friends. **InfoShare**, the email newsletter from New York Yearly Meeting, is now monthly. We are such a busy yearly meeting, filled with activity and Spirit, that we require more frequent communication. Below, you can find announcements, upcoming events, opportunities, and staff calendars for NYM. Note that our next gathering, **SPRING SESSIONS**, is only a couple of weeks away! [Register](#) NOW and see below for details.

**InfoShare** and our printed newsletter, *Spark*, is made up of information and articles provided by YOU. Please send news from your meeting or committee to [communications@nym.org](mailto:communications@nym.org).

Articles for *Spark* are a written form of ministry. Please consider writing an article. Articles should be 400-600 words; letters to the editor should be 200-250 words. The theme for the next issue, May, is **Quaker Commonality**. *What binds Quakers together in a common faith? What threatens to keep us apart? What makes us a religious society of Friends?* Please [submit](#) articles and news items by **April 6**.

Don't forget social media! We update these account often: our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

— Sarah Way, Editor



## Join the Match!

### Commit to a Recurring Gift Before Summer Sessions

An enthusiastic supporter is offering a match to encourage us all to make sustaining contributions to New York Yearly Meeting. \$50,000 is available to match new and increased recurring gifts offered before Summer Sessions 2019. For your contribution to be eligible, all you have to do is indicate that your gift is recurring (monthly, yearly, etc.).

Your gifts help support all of the work of NYYM, work that strengthens our communities and helps us continue to bring our Quaker faith to the world.

We hope that you will consider this request to be well-ordered and needed, and that you will make a donation in an amount that reflects both the value our yearly meeting has for you and your own capacity to give. [Donate online](#) or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750 to donate.

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## Help Enrich Worship at Summer Sessions

Dear Friends,

Each year, our community gathers for worship, business, and fellowship at Summer Sessions. Might you feel led to offer a message, a song, a story, or a Scripture? There are many opportunities to serve in these ways: **opening and closing worship** (Sunday evening and Saturday morning); **community worship** (all ages, Monday through Friday); and **vespers** (ecumenical gatherings in Silver Bay's chapel in the evenings).

If you would be interested in knowing more, or if you'd like help discerning which of these opportunities might be a good fit, please reach out to [Barbra Bleecker](#), clerk of worship at yearly meeting sessions.

## Upcoming Events



### NYYM Spring Sessions

**April 5-7, 2019**

Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, NY

At this [Spring Sessions](#) we have both important business matters to discern and inspiring reports to consider from the valuable work of Friends that goes on all the time across our entire area. The more who can join us, the better will be our decisions, which will affect all of us. We will have a new budget proposal to consider and there is a chance that we may begin to consider some yearly meeting structure revisions as well. Please consider joining us if

you are able.

Early registration is over but you can – and should! –still [register](#) so we can plan meals and sessions.

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## Upcoming Conferences at Powell House

[Powell House](#) is the conference and retreat center for New York Yearly Meeting.



### *Conferences for adults and families:*

[Creativity & Spirituality](#), March 22-24, 2019. If

art leads you to a deeper spiritual journey or your spiritual journey leads you to be more

creative or if you just want to explore the

relationship between creativity and spirituality, this multigenerational retreat is for you. Register [here](#).

[They Gathered Around](#): *A weekend to encourage Friends called to pastoral ministry.* March 29-31, 2019. A weekend retreat for—and of—Friends called into pastoral ministry (by whatever name), for mutual encouragement and growth. Who might your meeting send to join this retreat? Visit the [webpage](#) for more information.

[Spring Work/Messiah Sing/Scavenger Hunt](#), April 19-21, 2019. Whether you come to work and sing, work and play, or work, this weekend is for you! We'll have childcare for the young ones while we work. Register [here](#).

### *Specifically for young adults:*

[Clerking in the 21st Century](#), May 3-5, 2019. Part of the Young Adult Spiritual Nurture [series](#)! An opportunity for young adults at all phases of their Quakerdom to learn about clerking, discuss how traditional clerking translates into the 21st Century, and enjoy Powell House's beautiful campus in spring. Register [here](#).

### *Upcoming youth programs:*

[Love Those Trees](#) – 3rd to 5th Grade, April 26-28, 2019. Hug a tree and experience what it has to tell you. Plus we'll look at our own roots and shoots: what anchors us and what draws us up and out.

[Journey to the Center](#) – 5th to 7th Grade, May 10-12, 2019. Let's journey to the center – of the earth? of ourselves? –and see what we encounter.

[Earthsong](#) – 7th to 12th Grade, May 31-June 2, 2019. The year-end

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

[Wild Edibles I](#) – 3rd to 5th grade plus parents, June 14-16, 2019. Come with or without a parent to join Jo Clayson and her service dog, Ace, in exploring the Powell House property in search of wild plants we can eat, friends we meet, and connections we can make. (Return in August for Wild Edibles II!)

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## Mai Lai Memorial Exhibit

Friday March 22 - Sunday March 24

15th Street Meetinghouse / Common Room

Veterans for Peace present an exhibit on the Mai Lai Massacre in Vietnam featuring informational panels, video, interactive sculpture, and sharing.

Exhibit hours:

Friday: 5 p.m. (opening reception at 7 p.m.)

Saturday: 10 a.m - 9 p.m

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

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**LIVE, INTERACTIVE WEBINAR**

## What White People Can Do About Racism

[Fundamentals, Part 1](#)

Learn how to act against racism from a position of unearned (and unwanted) racial privilege.

**Saturday, March 30, April 13 & April 27, 2019**

5:00 - 7:00 PM Eastern, 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pacific

The missions of the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. (CSWAC) is to build an equitable society in the United States by decentering white culture and centering an anti-racist multiracial culture free of white supremacy.

Limited scholarships are available. Friends can write to Robin at [robin.alpern@gmail.com](mailto:robin.alpern@gmail.com).

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## Playing in the Light: Godly Play and Faith & Play Training for Quakers Inviting Friends in NEYM and beyond (including NYYM!)

April 12-14, 2019

Hosted by Friends Meeting at Cambridge  
(MA)



A rich weekend of storytelling where we'll explore the Godly Play method and Bible stories, alongside Quaker Stories in the Faith & Play collection. Used with multi-generational groups, family worship, and in children's religious education programs, this Montessori-inspired storytelling method makes space for genuine wondering and continuing revelation. The weekend serves as both a training and a time of spiritual retreat and nourishment for teachers.

View the [FLYER](#) for more information, and [register here](#) by April 2.

### Next Event in the Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series:

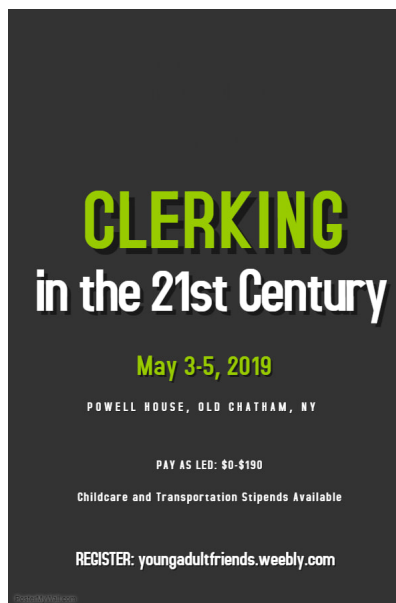
## Clerking in the 21st Century

May 3 (evening)-May 5 (lunch)

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 clerks and discuss how traditional clerking translates into the 21st century. At the end of this workshop, participants will know more about clerking and will 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! Find out [more](#) or [register](#) now.



And save the date for the next event:

**Why Am I? An Exploration of Authenticity, Integrity, and Courage**  
a one-day mini retreat

Date: June 8, 2019

Location: Farmington Friends Meeting, Farmington, NY



## NYYM Summer Sessions

July 21-27, 2019

Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY

**Registration is open now** for our annual, multi-generational, week-long gathering, [Summer Sessions](#), which is now **Pay as Led**. Come spend a week in a beautiful place among hundreds of people who all share your Quaker values. A place with beautiful lakeside beaches, smiling faces of all ages who meet to share stories about their Quaker leadings and good works—and the opportunity to do business, using best Quaker practices, that supports your spiritual community. Please [register](#) soon—after the deadline of **May 15**, the lower Pay as Led rates will not be available, and a room will not be guaranteed.

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## Reaching the Sacred Across the Divide

The Farmington Scipio Regional Spring Gathering

May 17-19, 2019

Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY

Registration Questions: email [Bronwyn Mohlke](#)  
or call 607-220-3219

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## The Friends General Conference Gathering

**Peace in our Hearts, Justice in the World**

June 30-July 6, 2019

at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa



The [Friends General Conference \(FGC\) Gathering](#) is an amazing opportunity to immerse yourself in Quaker spirituality and to enjoy yourself among new and familiar F/friends. Early [registration](#) opens April 1!

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

## **Creating Generous Congregations**

a workshop at Powell House

August 16-18, 2019

Facilitated by Colin Saxton



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!

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.

Make a note on your calendar, and watch for an invitation coming through the mail to your meeting treasurer soon.

## **Opportunities**

### **Join ARCH Visitor Training Online Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help**

Participate in the new [ARCH](#) Visitor Remote Training via Zoom video conference this Spring 2019! Yes, all of the great resources, learning, community building, spiritual deepening, and interpersonal connections of the ARCH Visitor Training retreat weekends are now available in a format geared for today's busy Quaker. We will meet weekly via Zoom for seven weeks for about an hour and a half, at a time mutually agreeable to the group. No experience with Zoom or video conferencing necessary—training provided.

[Sign up today!](#) If you have questions, please email [ARCH@NYYM.org](mailto:ARCH@NYYM.org)

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## Earthcare Outreach Collaborators Needed

Rochester Monthly Meeting recently relaunched our Earthcare Committee. We are actively seeking collaboration with other Meetings on Earthcare related issues. Two important initiatives are unfolding: We are working with area schools to bring more nature into the lives of K-12 school children, and we are networking with several Rochester faith groups to introduce Creation Care practices on land around their worship spaces. If you as an individual, or as part of a worship group, would like to learn more, please contact Roy Allen at [seven7cats@gmail.com](mailto:seven7cats@gmail.com).

## More Earthcare News

Did you know that NYYM has an **Earthcare Working Group** (EWG)? Do you know *what we do*? Do we know *what you are doing*? Let's find out together. [Contact](#) EWG co-clerk Margaret McCasland to share your story and to hear ours.

\*In addition to providing support and networking, the EWG now funds small Earthcare projects.

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## NYYM Meeting Houses & Properties Fund

The Trustees would like to remind all about the [Meeting Houses and Properties Fund](#). From the New York Yearly Meeting Trust Fund Descriptions, August 2018 Version:

“This fund was established in 2017 at the direction of the Trustees. The proceeds from the sale of the Plattekill Meeting House was deposited in this fund. The income is directed to the Meeting Houses and Properties designated use fund. The income from the Brinkerhoff fund is also directed to the Meeting Houses and Properties Fund.”

Per the Trustees minutes of May 23, 2017, “...the approved uses of that Fund are expanded to include maintenance, repair and new construction of meetinghouses and properties.”

The Trustees will be reviewing all applications to this fund at the end of May, so please submit any requests prior to that time. Visit the NYYM Financial Resources for Individuals and Meetings [page](#) to find an application form.

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## The Powell House Subscription Series

[Powell House](#), the conference and retreat center for NYYM, is launching the second year of offering a [subscription series](#) for individuals and monthly meetings.

**The individual plan:** Any individual who pays \$720 is eligible to come to as many Powell House programs as they'd like for one year.

**The monthly meeting plan:** A monthly meeting that pays \$1440 can have one person at each Powell House program for one year.

Powell House subscriptions have some restrictions and guidelines. Please feel free to bring questions or concerns to Co-Executive Director Regina Baird Haag via [email](#) or at 518-794-8811. Contact [Sharon](#) to purchase a subscription.

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## Western Yearly Meeting Interim Superintendent

[Western Yearly Meeting](#) is in a leadership transition. During this transition period the Yearly Meeting seeks to engage an individual to lead the Yearly Meeting in strategic visioning and restructuring to enable the Yearly Meeting to move forward with renewed hope and vision. This person will have prior education and experience in providing similar services for other Friends organizations. Please submit letter of interest, qualifications and resume to Western Yearly Meeting by **April 30, 2019**. c/o John Heshelman, Clerk of Search Committee, 1070 W State Road 42, Mooresville, IN 46158; jr.heshelman@gmail.com, 1-317-908-8595.

## Staff Travel Calendar

### March

**March 29-31:** *Pastoral Ministry Retreat "They Gathered Around," Powell House, Old Chatham, NY:* Steve Mohlke (General Secretary)

### April

**April 5-7:** *NYYM Spring Sessions, Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie, NY:* Callie Janoff (ARCH Director), Steve Mohlke; Helen Garay Toppins

(Associate Secretary); Sarah Way (Communications Director)

**April 24-26: Friends Services for the Aging (FSA) Annual Meeting, Pennswood Village, Newtown, PA: Callie Janoff**

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