

May 2019

Welcome, Friends, to this month's InfoShare, this email newsletter from New York Yearly Meeting. I have two items to highlight:

**Summer Sessions: Registration for lower Pay as Led rates** for our annual gathering, [NYYM Summer Sessions](#), has been EXTENDED to **May 24**. Planning for Sessions is ongoing! See below for new information on Bible Study, Young Adult Friends, and ARCH, among others. [Register](#) as soon as possible to have the best room options. Please pay by June 15 if you are able.

**Spark: The May issue** of Spark, on Quaker Commonality, is [now online](#)! Read the [letter](#) to New Zealand Friends sent by NYYM's clerk and general secretary. See [upcoming events](#) and learn about [Funds](#) you can apply to for aid. And you can read articles that attempt to get to the heart of what Quakers [around the world](#) have [in common](#) – how we are [united](#) in the Light. There's also some newly-released Summer Sessions [info](#) about the Bible Study [leader](#), the [plenary speakers](#), and [Meeting for Discernment](#).

Do you want to spread the word about an upcoming event or an exciting new development at your meeting? [Email](#) me the details for inclusion in now-monthly InfoShare and our printed newsletter, Spark. Deadline for submissions is the 1st week of the month prior to publication. Articles for Spark should be 400-600 words long and be Spirit-led. Submissions of photos and artwork are welcome. The next issue, in September, will be un-themed, with news from Summer Sessions. The November issue is titled **Light Behind the Walls**, on Quaker worship in prison, guest-edited by [Jill McLellan](#) of the Prisons Committee.

Keep up with breaking Quaker news by following these social media accounts: our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#). Peace, Friends!

– Sarah Way, Editor

## News & Announcements



## Last Chance to 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. [Donate online](#) or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750 to donate.

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## Volunteer to Help at Summer Sessions

It takes many hands and spirits to make Summer Sessions complete. Do you have gifts to share with the community? We need volunteers:

- to enrich worship by sharing a message, a song, a story, or a Scripture
- to facilitate worship sharing groups
- to drive golf carts around campus (must have valid driver's license)
- to carry (or "run") microphones to Friends during meetings for worship and with a concern for business
- to help facilitate or share an interest with a Junior Yearly Meeting group

With everyone's help, we can be a more inclusive community. To volunteer, [email](#) the NYYM office and we will forward your email to the appropriate person.

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## Just Use a Microphone Already!

[This article](#) about accommodating people with hearing loss reached me via email from both ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help) and Brooklyn Meeting Friends. You may find it thought-provoking in your meetings, too. A sample quote:

"Refusing to use a microphone is like scheduling a meeting in a room accessible only by stairs. And then when your colleague in a wheelchair shows up and asks for a ramp so she can attend, you stand at the top of the steps and say, 'No thanks, I'm good.'"

Read more at [Just Use a Microphone Already](#), Jessie B. Ramey,  
www.chronicle.com

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## Interim Action in Support of HALT

Interim actions are actions taken by the yearly meeting clerk and/or general secretary on behalf of NYYM between Sessions.

Jeffrey Aaron, clerk of NYYM, has signed onto a letter from New York faith leaders in support of the HALT act, which severely limits solitary confinement in New York state. Read the [full letter](#) and [an article](#) about the letter online.

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## Weekly Online Meetings for Worship and Healing

Friends who are seeking a healing gathering, or are unable to attend worship, or just looking for some shared worship during the week, are invited to join two weekly prayer conference calls:

**Wednesday Prayer Healing Meeting**, every Wednesday at 12:00 PM

**Monday Afternoon Worship**, every Monday at 5:00 PM

To join the conference call, dial the number below and follow the prompts for the access code. You will be prompted to "announce yourself" once you join the call. Please do so, even if it's silent, so we all know who has joined!

USA: (712) 451-0673

Access Code 357843#

For more information, contact [Patty Frascatore](#). All welcome!

## Upcoming Events



**NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS**  
FRIENDS COME IN ALL AGES, SIZES, AND COLORS: OUR PATH TOWARD BEING INCLUSIVE  
JULY 21-27, 2019

**NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS**, the annual intergenerational gathering of New York Yearly Meeting Friends, will be held July 21-27 at Silver Bay, NY. You are

invited to spend a week in a beautiful place among hundreds of people who all share your Quaker values. Visit the [Summer Sessions page](#) for all the details and registration.

**NEWLY ANNOUNCED HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Bible Study Leader is Lucy Price:** Since 2017, Lucy has been the pastor at Adirondacks Meeting. She believes that “the Bible is a collection of histories, poetry, songs, pithy sayings, and individual accounts of personal spiritual experiences. Understanding the cultural context of these writings helps us to appreciate their meanings.” Bible Study takes place at 6:45-7:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, at Summer Sessions.

**Young Adult Friends Program:** Friends who are young adults (ages 18-35ish), or Friends led to be in spiritual community with young adults, are invited to participate in community building and spiritual exploration activities throughout the week, including worship sharing, meet-ups, customized programs, and shared meals. For those interested, we will also help coordinate group attendance at business sessions and provide opportunities for one-on-one Spiritual Nurture. Look for details on this program in your inbox in early July. Friends are also invited to a special celebration at Powell House immediately preceding Summer Sessions (July 20) focused on the query: what do young adults need? The event will culminate with a joyful caravan to Silver Bay on July 21. Contact [Marissa Badgley](#) with questions.

**First Time Attenders—Arrive Early on Sunday for Orientation:** First Time Attenders should come to the Auditorium at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday to get all their questions answered and start the week off well informed! Even if you’ve attended Summer Sessions many times, join us! Share your wisdom and perhaps learn something new.

**Topic for Meeting for Discernment:** As envisioned from their beginnings, Meetings for Discernment provide the space and the time to enter into deep listening and sharing. At this summer’s Meeting for Discernment, Tuesday, July 23, at Silver Bay, we will take extended time with each other to consider **what membership means** in our lives and meetings. New York Yearly Meeting is considering a change that would allow individuals to become direct members of NYYM instead of requiring that membership be maintained exclusively by monthly meetings. Please join us to gather in waiting worship and really listen to each other on the topic of membership.

**ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help) Opportunities:** The ARCH Program provides support for Friends from NYYM in our journey of growing older as a community, grounded in love and care for one another. ARCH is planning many activities for Summer Sessions: Aging and Caregivers worship sharing groups; an ARCH Visitors lunch; open meetings of the ARCH Committee; an ARCH interest group for babies and new parents; and a morning of Community Worship. Individual private one-on-one ARCH Visits available all week to discuss your concerns about yourself or someone you care about growing older; to get support and resources about agism, caregiving, advance directives and needs for care; or to talk about the nurture and care of your meeting community in our shared journey of growing older as a multi-age body. [Email](#) ARCH for more information.

**Note:** the deadline to register for lower Pay as Led rates has been **extended to May 24**. Spread the word: [registration](#) is ongoing! Register ASAP to secure yourself a room on campus. Registrants are asked to make their payments to NYYM by Saturday, **June 15**. Thank you!



## The Pendle Hill Quaker Institute: Deepening Our Quaker Practice

May 30 - June 2, 2019

(Thursday evening through Sunday noon)

Offered in collaboration with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting

Led by Ernie Buscemi, Adria Gulizia, Christopher Sammond, and Melinda Wenner Bradley, with others from PYM

At the [Quaker Institute](#), Friends will come away with renewed energy, insight, experience, and skills that can deepen Quaker practice in their meeting community. This Institute is for Quakers concerned about strengthening the spiritual heart of their meetings, inviting others into deeper Quaker practice, transmitting Quaker faith and practice, developing greater ability to exercise discernment, encouraging spiritual formation and the naming and development of spiritual gifts among all ages, and tending to the special needs of Friends in the meeting. This is the one program to which your meeting should consider sending three or four of its members.

Click here for [registration information](#).

Click here to view the [preliminary schedule](#).

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## Why Color Matters

A 3-part [Online Webinar](#)

Sunday, June 9, 16, and 23, 7-9 p.m. (eastern)

A 6-hour interactive webinar offered in three 2-hour sessions, intended to explore:

- Colorblindness as a racial ideology
- How colorblindness compares to white supremacy
- Problems and ramifications of colorblindness
- Color consciousness as an alternative to colorblindness

From the [Center for the Study of White American Culture](#)

Register [here!](#)

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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:

[Forgiveness as Spiritual Practice](#) with Sue Regen

June 14-16

Life brings to each of us experiences of anger, fear, hurt, and pain. What we do with these is up to each individual. Choosing to practice forgiveness can bring healing and inner peace. Come, join with others who are willing to take some steps along this spiritual path. Focus is on tools and techniques, not on therapy.

[Nonviolent Communication: A Spiritual Practice and Act of Social Change](#)

Facilitated by Dian Killian

June 21-23

During this weekend-long intensive training in compassionate Nonviolent Communication, we will learn practical skills to put Quaker principles into action: self-managing our own reactions, empathizing with others, and finding solutions that restore harmony, are in integrity with our values, and hold everyone's needs with care.

[Creating Generous Congregations](#) Facilitated by Colin Saxton

Aug. 16-18

This interactive and practical workshop is focused on inspiring and equipping meetings toward generosity and faithful, financial stewardship. Get a preview of this conference on June 17 – see item below for details.

### Upcoming youth programs:

[Earthsong](#) – 7th to 12th Grade, May 31-June 2. 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. 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!)

[Unwinding](#) – 9th to 12th grade, July 4-7.

A long weekend for unwinding, ending with a movie festival plus munchies. Beginning Thursday, we'll come together to construct and destruct, work, reflect, play, swim and converse.

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## Bill Bortree Memorial Meeting

A memorial meeting for Bill Bortree is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Scarsdale Meeting, 133 Popham Road, Scarsdale, New York.

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## Stoking the Fire: Stirring Up the Embers

June 7-10, 2019, at Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN

Friends United Meeting invites you to an [annual retreat](#) for individuals who are “on fire” with the Holy Spirit and are seeking deeper faith and bolder witness. Music at Stoking the Fire will be led by Cathy Harris and Nikki Holland. Speakers will include Mary Glazer, Doug Gwyn, Bob Henry, Kelly Kellum, Richard Sitati, and Katie Ubry-Terrell. Registration Deadline is **May 31**.

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

## Why Am I? An Exploration of Authenticity, Integrity, and Courage

### A One-Day Mini Retreat

June 8 at Farmington Friends Meeting, Farmington, NY

This workshop will be focused on finding and illuminating your heart's Truth. Together, we will explore our Faith journeys and make active connections between our inner and outer selves, considering the intersections and gaps



between our Faith, our dreams, and our realities. Join us! [Register here.](#)

## What do Young Adults Need?

### The Residential Closing Celebration

July 20-21 (Before Summer Sessions—car pool/caravan to Silver Bay to follow)

at Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

The grand finale! Join us to discuss what young adults need to be full participants in Quaker communities and what it will take to meet these needs. We will draft an epistle that captures our experiences over the year that we can bring with us

to Summer Sessions. Then join us in a joyful caravan to [Summer Sessions!](#)

Attendance at Summer Sessions is not required but is encouraged. [Register here.](#)



## A Reading of The Way of a Pilgrim: a play about prayer

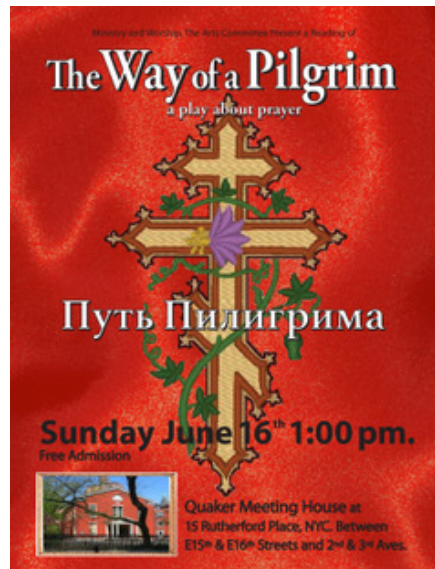
1:00 p.m., Sunday, June 16

Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse

15 Rutherford Place, NYC

Late in the 19th century, a monk in one of the monasteries on Mount Athos, Greece, discovered a manuscript called Candid Narratives of a Pilgrim to His Spiritual Father. It was published in Russian in 1884 and has since been retitled The Way of a Pilgrim. It's the memoir of a man, a seeker, who spent years traveling in Russia

looking for a starets — a teacher — who could teach him what St. Paul means when he tells us, in his letter to the Thessalonians, “Pray without ceasing.” When he finally finds his starets, he learns The Jesus Prayer, still one of the most widely-recited Christian prayers.



Friends are invited to a reading of The Way of a Pilgrim: a play about prayer, adapted from this book, at The Fifteenth Street Meeting House in New York



on Sunday, June 16th, at 1:00. Whether Christ-centered or not, we'll all appreciate the wisdom that the anonymous Russian writer has for us. Brought to you by the 15th Street Meeting Arts Committee.

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## Preview "Cultivating Generous Congregations"

An online conversation at 7 p.m. on June 17

Join us for a preview of the NYYM and Everence sponsored "Cultivating Generous Congregations" retreat at Powell House, August 16-18. Colin Saxton, stewardship consultant from Everence, will offer an introduction to what the retreat will offer.

"Cultivating Generous Congregations" looks at giving trends in our culture and across generations. We will explore best practices for encouraging generosity and stewardship and how to overcome obstacles that keep Friends from partnering in the work of our Meetings. The retreat offers practical tools and a framework for engaging in healthy and transforming conversations about giving, our use of money and the work we are called to do as Friends.

Whether you are registered for the retreat, thinking about it or just want to learn more, plan to join us for a conversation on Monday, June 17 at 7pm (Eastern)!

No registration is necessary for the call. You can join us at the appointed time by using the following information:

Join by computer (recommended): <https://zoom.us/j/382233458>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 382 233 458

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## Online Meeting for Worship with Buffalo Friends

7:30 pm on May 22, June 12 & 26

All are invited to the [Buffalo Friends Meeting](#) Online Mid-Week Meeting for Worship, held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM with a welcome message from the Outreach Committee, followed by worship for about 30 minutes. Afterwards, there is time for check-in/follow-up amongst the participants. The meeting ends about 8:15 PM. This virtual meeting is held using [Zoom](#), a free video conferencing service.

Instructions for joining the meeting:

**From computer or smartphone for audio & video:** Click on [this link](#), or copy and paste this link into your web browser: <https://zoom.us/j/486346925>

**From telephone for audio only:** Dial (669) 900-6833 or (646) 558-8656, then enter the Meeting ID: 486-346-925

Friends having technical difficulties connecting may call or text Matt at (716) 507-6562.

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## Open House at the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse

11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 15

Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse, 230  
Sheldon Road, Farmington, NY, USA



As part of NYS Pathways Through History there will be an [Open House](#) with refreshments and exhibits. Special program at Farmington Friends Church across the road: "Erie Canal: Mural Mania and the Preservation of History through Community Art." Mark DeCracker, creator of the Mural Mania project, will present a talk and video display of the murals and also demonstrate how visitors can learn about local history and murals through the Wegmans' "Hit the Trail" app.

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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



**FGC**  
FRIENDS  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

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. [Registration](#) is now open!

## Opportunities

### 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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## Stevens Fund Applications Open

The Stevens Fund is a small fund 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 at Summer Sessions, July 21-27, 2019.

If Friends or meetings know someone who would benefit from the Stevens Fund, please encourage them to apply. Friends may note that the fund currently has more recipients than fund income permits, and we have had to receive assistance through an added budget line of Ministry Coordinating Committee. The Stevens Fund committee and Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee are currently discerning solutions to this budget gap. For now, contributions from individual Friends and meetings would be most welcome. Please send checks to NYYM with memo: Stevens Fund.

Those who would like to apply please request an application from [David Herendeen](#), 518 836 7209, or [Anita Paul](#), 518 374 2166. Applications are due by **July 1, 2019**.

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## Position Open at Pendle Hill: Cook

The Cook shares in the responsibility for planning and cooking three meals a day, year-round, for buffet-style meal service that varies in size from approximately 10 to 120 persons. Meals are prepared under the supervision of the Dining Services Manager using raw ingredients sourced from our organic garden and local farms. This is a full time position. View details [here](#).

# Staff Travel Calendar

## June

**June 2:** Memorial Meeting for Bill Bortree, Scarsdale, NY: Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary)

**June 8:** Protestant Day at Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, NY: Helen Garay Toppins

**June 12:** Meeting for Worship at Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, NY: Helen Garay Toppins

**June 21-23:** Building Multi-Racial Community, Friends Center for Racial Justice, Ithaca, NY: Steve Mohlke

**June 30-July 6:** Friends General Conference Gathering, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa: Chad Gilmartin (Digital Communications Director), Callie Janoff (ARCH Director), Steve Mohlke



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