

October 2019

Hello Friends. It's almost time for **FALL SESSIONS**, happening November 1-3 at [Powell House](#), the NYYM retreat center in Old Chatham, NY. Read [a message](#) from the clerk on the agenda and the new schedule for the weekend. When Friends from all worship groups and meetings participate in our sessions, we bring the wisdom of a variety of Friends to our work together. All Fall Sessions information, registration, [advance documents](#) (as they become available), schedule, etc. are on the [NYYM website](#). Please [register](#) at NYYM for Sessions and meals before Oct. 21. Financial assistance is available; in fact there is a fund just for this purpose. Please ask for help if you need it. Email [Helen Garay Toppins](#) or call her (212-673-5750) if you have any questions. To reserve a space to stay overnight at Powell House, [click here](#).

There are two **JOB OPENINGS** you should be aware of: [Powell House](#) is looking for a new [Youth Director](#), and the [ARCH Program](#) is seeking a [Local Coordinator](#). Please spread the word to Friends who may be interested.

We have a NEW **Interim Young Adult Field Secretary**: Marissa Badgley. She is building on the past year's [Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series](#) with a new [series of events](#) to nurture and inspire young adults in NYYM. Read about [the next event](#)! Note that events planned for 2020 are contingent upon budgetary approval.

Send me news and events! [Email](#) or use this [form](#) to submit items for InfoShare. For InfoShare and our printed newsletter, *Spark*, the submissions deadline is the 1st week of the month prior to publication. Articles for *Spark* should be 400-600 words long, emailed to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). Photos and artwork are welcome.

Follow the NYYM social media accounts! See the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

— Sarah Way, Editor

# News & Announcements

## Welcome, Friends!

A message from the clerk about Fall Sessions

### New, Experimental Schedule

Fall Sessions 2019 will be different from past Spring and Fall Sessions. It will take place in “our own” facilities, Powell House and Old Chatham’s meeting house, and the schedule will be experimental. In order for committees to discern any important late business and bring it to the coordinating committees, which can then consider bringing it to the plenary business agenda, the new order of the schedule will enable this process to work better than it has in the past. Committee meetings will take place Saturday morning after our opening meeting for worship and until lunch. Coordinating Committee meetings will take place right after lunch, and business meetings will take place after that and in the evening, as well as the usual Sunday morning.

### Business Agenda and Advance Documents

The business sessions will be full and interesting, requiring careful discernment on critical items. Many dedicated Friends have been creative and caring in their committee discernment in recent weeks and at Budget Day to address significant budget concerns, membership concerns, and divestment concerns, to find the best way forward after our successful Pay as Led experiment at Summer



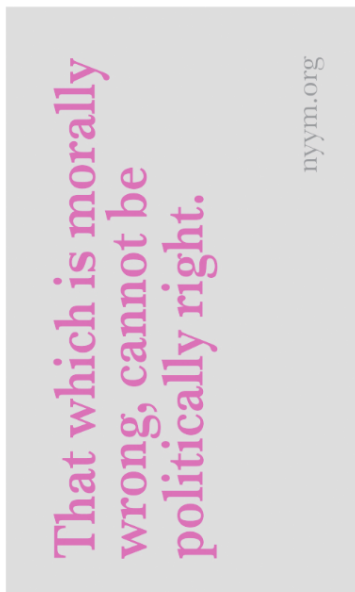
Sessions. [Advance documents](#) will appear on the [Fall Sessions page](#). They are not as early as we would hope because the business items have required careful discernment and creativity this year.

### Fall Sessions is Pay as Led and Welcome to All

Pay as Led applies to this gathering as well. All Friends are always welcome to all gatherings. Most committee meetings, including the coordinating committees, provide an opportunity to observe and participate without any required personal commitments. This is a valuable opportunity for those who want to experience the workings of dedicated Friends in session. Come sit with Friends and take a mental health break from the harshness of the current news cycle!

—Jeffrey Aaron, Clerk

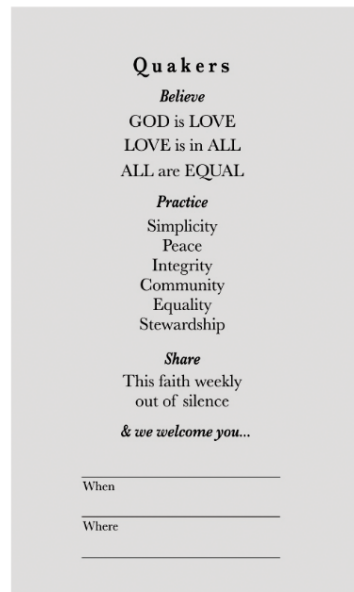
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FRONT Version 1



FRONT Version 2



BACK of Both Versions

## Outreach Cards Available!

The Youth Committee offers these Outreach cards for Friends to share with others as an introduction to our beloved community. We feel it's important to share who we are with those seeking resonant community. We also consider it essential in these times, without proselytizing, to inform.

If your meeting would like to receive 100+ of these cards, simply email the below info to [Don O'Keefe](#), the Treasurer of the Youth Committee. Please also cc [Howard Gibbs-Hobgood](#).

1. Your name, address, meeting
2. Quantity requested of "That Which Is..." or "Let Your Life..."
3. What do you appreciate about your monthly meeting?
4. How could your monthly meeting better serve you?
5. How could your meeting better serve youth, young adults & families?
6. What might inspire you to attend Summer Sessions 2020?

Donations are welcome, but not required, via clicking the "Donate" link at [nyym.org](#) or by check to NYYM, 15 Rutherford Pl, New York, NY 10003. Please write "Outreach Cards" in the memo.

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## FGC's Spiritual Deepening Library

Have you explored Friends General Conference's Spiritual Deepening Library 2.0? Discover a more accessible way to learn about Quaker faith and practice, at your own pace! Our FREE online activity and resource library, which contains over 150 activities under six topic areas, is ideal for Friends and seekers who want to begin a new daily spiritual practice, or for small groups at your meeting or church.

[Try a new activity through Spiritual Deepening Library 2.0!](#)

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## Friends Peace Teams joins with Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is pleased to announce that it has taken under its care, with both spiritual and administrative



support, the ministry of Paula Palmer, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR). FPT commits to supporting Paula to continue minding the Light through her ministry of working with Native and non-Native communities to build relationships based on truth, respect, justice and our shared humanity.

Through its workshops and trainings, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples encourages faith communities, schools, colleges, and civic organizations to acknowledge and honor the history, presence, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples. Learn more about their great work [here](#). Learn more about Friends Peace Teams [here](#).

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## Global Online Meeting for Worship

## With Quaker Universalist Fellowship

Following the example of [Western Friend](#), [Quaker Universalist Fellowship](#) now holds a weekly meeting for worship online, using the video conferencing platform Zoom.

[Global Meeting for Worship \(GMFW\)](#) is held **Wednesdays** at 6-7:00 p.m., Coordinated Universal Time UTC (2pm USA Eastern during Daylight Savings Time) [Convert to your time zone here.](#)

Find full instructions for how to join the meeting [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Conferences at Powell House

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

*Conferences for adults and families:*

[Fall Work, Contra Dance, and Storytelling Weekend](#)

**October 25-27**

Enjoy learning new skills? Like to work among 57 acres of God's creation in Columbia County, NY? Bring your favorite tools, old clothes and hearty appetites. Our cooks will have lots of good, nutritious & yummy food for us. We have plenty of work projects, both inside and outside our buildings. The contra dance band and storyteller are experienced and talented!

[Peace Witness: Turning Quaker Testimony into Action](#)

**November 15-17**

There are many ways to foster the harmonious world we seek, and this conference will explore ways that we, as Quakers and non-Quakers, can be for peace and bring about peace through both upstream work and direct action. This conference is for anyone who is ready to develop, deepen, and share their peace witness with the world.

[Quaker 12-Step Weekend](#)

**November 22-24**

Led by facilitator Juliet Wright, the weekend will include many 12-step activities including 12-stepping a problem, the patterns of codependency and



characteristics of recovery, meeting in a bucket, gratitude boxes, individual sharing, writing and sharing on program literature from your 12-step program, singing and more!

### *Upcoming youth programs:*

#### [Falling Up](#) – 6th-8th grade, November 15-17

Falling down is seldom fun, so what if we could choose to fall up instead? We will practice ways to keep our bodies safe even when we are unstable, as well as ways to help our minds and spirits fall up instead of down in times of trouble.

#### [At the End of Your Line? Build a Bridge](#) – 11th & 12th grade plus YOUNG ADULTS, November 22-24

In our lives there's a lot to be angry and fearful about. But we are not alone. Please join us for a weekend of discussing what we can do with that fear and anger in a nonviolent, productive way!

#### [Winter Eyes](#) – 4th & 5th grade, December 6-8

We will practice using “winter eyes” for these short cold days of winter: seeing color in gray days, feeling the joy of being together, and practicing ways to bring energy and warmth into ourselves and others.

#### [Wintersong](#) – 7th to 12th grade, December 13-15

This is Powell House's traditional two-house celebration where older middle schoolers join high schoolers to create a vibrant, joyful community.

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## Stolen Hands, Stolen Lands: From 1619 to a Just Future

### A Multi-Faith Service Observing the Beginning of Slavery in The U.S.

On **October 20th at 6:00 p.m.**, you are invited to join Union Theological Seminary, The Riverside Church, and 400 Years of Inequality for "[Stolen Hands, Stolen Lands: From 1619 to a Just Future](#)." This multi-faith service will solemnly observe the 400th anniversary of the first Africans to be sold into bondage in the U.S. The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II will offer a reflection. Visit the link above to RSVP.

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## Who is My Neighbor?

### Community Development Seminar

9 a.m. - 5 p.m., October 22

Pace University Law School, White Plains, NY

Co-organized by the **New York State Council of Churches**, of which NYYM is a part.

This day of conversation with colleagues and experts will inspire you to:

- Think in new ways about how congregations can reach out to their communities and to revitalize.
- Draw on the theological riches of your tradition to address attitudinal and legal barriers which prevent your neighborhood and region from welcoming people of all incomes and races and helping them to live, work and participate in your local economy.
- Renovate and improve your property to further your mission.

We want to offer you the tools and perspectives which can aid you in building the state and world we all want. Visit [here](#) for a full description and information on how to register.

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BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL and BROOKLYN MONTHLY MEETING present:

## Indigenous Peoples' Celebration of Mother Earth

Wednesday October 23rd, 6-8:30 PM

Brooklyn Meetinghouse, 110 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY



Honoring Haudenosaunee, Algonquian traditions, wisdom, and knowledge, vital to today and tomorrow. Join us for the beautiful singing of Bear Fox and dancing led by Josh Sargent, followed by a delicious dinner.

Please RSVP to [Marna Herrity](#).

*Art above courtesy of Jordan Thompson, Mohawk Artist*



## Raising Antiracist White Children In-Person and Online Workshop

On October 26, 2019, CSWAC (the Center for Study of White American Culture) presents its [workshop](#) **Raising Antiracist White Children** at the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School, 185 Court Street, 11201.

Register [here](#)!

This workshop is also offered as a 3-Part Online Webinar on Nov. 23, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) for more info.

Raising Antiracist White Children will explore:

- basics of anti-racism education and practices
- awareness of white culture
- how children learn racism and at what age
- how and when to talk with children about race and racism

NYYM Black Concerns Committee offers scholarships for this workshop to Quakers. Contact [Helen Garay Toppins](#) to apply.

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## Spiritual Deepening eRetreats: **Weaving a Wider Welcome**

Offered October 27 - November 22,  
2019

Welcoming is not the work of one or two people at the door. It takes a whole meeting to create a culture that is ready

to attentively and joyfully bring newcomers into the fold of the community. The **Weaving a Wider Welcome eRetreat** from Friends General Conference (FGC) offers Friends and meetings an opportunity to explore best practices for bringing newcomers into the life of the meeting, with special emphasis on welcoming people of color, families with young children, and LGBTQIA folks.



In this workshop you will learn:

- Why people don't come back and why people choose to engage.
- Ways meetings can shift their culture to become more newcomer-friendly
- Effective ways to better reach newcomers, with a special focus on seekers of Color, LGBTQ folks, and families with young children. Spoiler alert: what is enriching for newcomers also benefits long-timers!

For more details on this eRetreat, [click here](#). You can also [register now!](#) *Photo above by Seth Barch*



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## Brooklyn Meeting Retreat is open to all NYC Friends Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys - the Brooklyn Meeting Retreat

November 8-10, 2019 at Powell House, NY

The theme is *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*. This retreat will be an intergenerational weekend full of contemplation, worship, relaxation, play, and laughter. As part of the NYQM Jubilee Year, Friends from all the meetings in the New York Quarter are invited and encouraged to attend. Click [here](#) for information and registration. [Email](#) the Retreat Committee with questions.

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## Join the ARCH network! Become an ARCH Visitor

Friends from throughout New York Yearly Meeting offer practical and spiritual/pastoral care to older people and differently-abled adults. Join in this vibrant ministry!



ARCH Visitor Training sessions will be held via Zoom video conferencing over the course of 7 weekly sessions 1.5 hours each, at a time to be determined by mutual agreement starting the week of November 3, 2019. [Sign up today!](#)

Topics will include

- developmental issues in later life
- worshipful listening
- housing considerations
- disability
- loss & grief
- working with caregivers
- copious resources
- boundaries & self care
- and much more

This training is offered at no cost to Friends in NYQM. Please share [this invitation](#) with a Friend whose gifts would be enhanced or supported by this opportunity.

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## Earlham School of Religion

Earlham School of Religion is holding a [Prospective Student Visit Day](#) Friday,

November 1, from 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. We invite you to join faculty, students, and fellow seekers to explore ESR! The schedule includes a campus tour, a sample class, worship,



E A R L H A M  
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information about programs and financial aid, and time with current students and faculty. Two free nights of accommodations at our guest house will be provided for those who attend and one guest (supply is limited).

You are also invited to stay for ESR's annual [Ministry of Writing Colloquium](#) on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2! **If you attend the Visit Day you can then attend the Colloquium for free.** The Colloquium will feature *Over the Rhine*, an Ohio-based Folk Music band, various writing workshops, and a kick off for the new MA: Theopoetics and Writing Program.

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**NEXT [YOUNG ADULT FRIEND EVENT:](#)  
[ONLINE WORSHIP GROUP](#)**

**Date:** Saturday, November 16

**Time:** 10:00-11:00a.m.

**Location:** Click THIS LINK to join meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/387108840>

Via phone: call (646) 558-8656 and enter PIN: 387108840

ZOOM MEETING ID: 387108840

We will meet four times for semi-programmed worship between November and July. These Zoom sessions will be for young adults throughout NYYM and beyond and will include a prepared message, 2-3 queries, and waiting worship. Each worship group will be held by an elder.

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**[FCNL's Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute](#)**

**November 14-17 in Washington, D.C.**

**Gather and worship** with hundreds of Quakers and friends committed to advocating for a more just and peaceful world. **Lobby to end the U.S. strategy of endless war**—building on [the progress of recent weeks](#). **Give input** on FCNL's legislative policy positions. And **be inspired to act** in the year ahead.

[Registration is open now](#) for this year's event, whose theme is "Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions): Working Together for Peace and Justice." You can visit our website for a [first look at the schedule](#) and [more details about the event](#). Financial assistance is available for young adults and members of the General Committee; contact [Annie Chiorazzi](#), Events Manager, for more information.

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## Opportunities

### ARCH Local Coordinator

ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help) is hiring!



Do you have a heart for older Friends in your area? Do you like to visit with Friends and make personal connections? Please consider this opportunity. New York Yearly Meeting's ARCH program for older Friends seeks **two ARCH Local Coordinators** to serve any of the areas of Butternuts Quarterly Meeting, Long Island Quarterly Meeting, Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting, Northeastern Regional Meeting, and NYYM's Prison Worship Groups. Friends from these geographic areas, or with an interest in ministry related to aging while incarcerated are encouraged to apply. This is a part time position with an expectation of approximately 10-15 hours a month.

Friends with the following gifts are sought: ministry of presence, gifts in facilitation & organizing others, spiritual listening & accompaniment, recognizing & investing in the gifts of others, and traveling among Friends. The full job description is available [here](#).

Application can be made by sending your resume and cover to [ARCH@NYYM.org](mailto:ARCH@NYYM.org) with "ARCH Local Coordinator Application" in the subject line, no later than **November 3, 2019**.

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### Seeking New Powell House Youth Director

Are you looking for a role where you can help young people experience what it is to be loved unequivocally? To guide them through the process of truly knowing themselves and helping them see how they can make a difference in the world?

If you desire to be in a role where you are making a marked difference in the lives of young people, we invite you to apply to the role of [Youth Director of Powell House](#).

Powell House is the Conference Center of the New York Yearly Meeting and the Youth Program hosts approximately two weekend retreats a month for children ranging from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Powell House Youth

Directors will be responsible for creating programming that is impactful and meaningful for attendees, manage logistics of the program and be accountable for programming enrollment and advertisement. This is an opportunity to make a significant impact and enrich the lives of hundreds of children.



#### Powell House Youth Director Requirements

- Direct experience working with children and adolescents and creating impactful programming for youth
- A clear understanding of the practices and values of Religious Society of Friends as well as a desire to share Friends' values with young people

Powell House Youth Director compensation includes salary, housing, some meals, and a complete benefit package.

*If interested, please contact [Regina Baird Haag](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org), Co-Executive Director, Elsie K. Powell House, Inc. [regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org)*

## Staff Travel Calendar

### October

**Oct. 21-23:** *Pastor's Retreat:* Steve Mohlke (General Secretary)

### November

**Nov. 1-3:** *Fall Sessions, Powell House, Old Chatham NY:* Marissa Badgley (Interim Young Adult Field Secretary), Chad Gilmartin (Digital Communications Director), Callie Janoff, Steve Mohlke, Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary), and Sarah Way (Communications Director)

**Nov. 15-16:** *The White Privilege Symposium: Tools for Creating a Just Future for All, Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester, NY:* Helen Garay

Toppins

**Nov. 22-24: Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence,**  
*Pendle Hill, PA: Steve Mohlke*

## **UPCOMING NYYM SESSIONS**

### **2020**

**NYYM Spring Sessions**, April 3-5 (Host: Sessions Committee; Location:  
Oakwood Friends School)

**NYYM Summer Sessions**, July 19-25 (at Silver Bay YMCA)

**NYYM Fall Sessions**, November 6-8 (Host: Shrewsbury & Plainfield; Location:  
TBA)



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**Contact info:** 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003 / 212-673-5750