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E-newsletter for FDS and Families in NYYM monthly meetings with resources, events, and opportunities.

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# The Tote Bag:

## NYYM Religious Education and Family Resources



Greetings, Friends!

Welcome to the first issue of "The Tote Bag," a quarterly e-newsletter for Friends interested in religious education and support for families in our monthly meetings. It's my hope that this will be a place both to share resources and lift up opportunities to build our community of practice among Friends supporting the spiritual lives of children and youth.

This first issue is particularly full, and has several opportunities for families and youth that have *deadlines*.

***I hope you will forward this email both to families and others in your monthly meeting who might be interested. Thank you!***

In faith and service,

Melinda

NYYM Children and Youth Field Secretary

[childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org)

## NEW Curriculum Resources for First Day Programs

["Finding the Light in You"](#) -- A practical handbook with guided imagery and richly illustrated with color photos that supportively guides the process of nurturing children's silent worship skills.



Finding the Light in You  
BRIGHT SILENT WORSHIP WITH YOUNG FRIENDS



["Being a Friend: A Conversation Starter"](#) -- A friendly conversation about the basic principles of Quaker beliefs. Journal pages included provide the means to incorporate readers thoughts into the book. This is for adults and children to

share.



["Approved! A Story About Quaker Meeting for Business"](#) is a lovely and clear illustration of Quaker Meeting for Business. Based on the authors' experience guiding young clerks at Wellesley's Children's Meeting for Business, the text with glossary can also serve adults new to the world of Quaker business process.

[On the NYYM website: Resources for Addressing Racism](#) with children and youth; includes books by age group, articles for parents and teachers, and more.

**Quaker Plays for children and youth programs:** a ["vocal ministry skit"](#) created by teens at Friends Meeting of Washington (Baltimore YM) and a [series of plays](#) for children and youth about and for Friends. (*Linked here to the Quaker RE Collaborative website: [www.quakers4re.org](http://www.quakers4re.org)*)

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## For Families in Your Meeting:

### Workshop:

#### *"Raising Anti-racist White Children"*

**February 11, 2017 in Beacon, NY**

From the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. -- This workshop is designed for educators, parents, caregivers and everyone who wants to support white children to develop an aware and healthy racial identity, and the potential to join the next generation of anti-racist organizers and healers. To learn more and register, visit the [CSWAC website](#).



### Quaker Parent Meetups

*Finding Joy and Support in Fellowship and Worship Together*

**Saturday, March 18, 3:00-5:30pm at Flushing Meeting**

The first in the 2017 series of Quaker Parent Meetups in NYQM. We'll gather for fellowship, worship, and fun. Child care and refreshments provided -- come with or without the kids! (Parents of children from infants to teens, and in other quarters and regions are welcome!)

***Want to bring a Meetup to your Quarter/Region/Half YM?***

Contact Melinda at [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org)

## PoHo for Families and Youth:



*"Breathe, Just Breathe"* 11th-12th Graders and Young Adults (February 10-12)

*"When the Spirit Says Sing"* 4th-5th Grades (February 17-19)

*"Give Me Space"* 6th-8th Grades (March 10-12)

***"Aaah...a Retreat for Parents"* (March 10-12)**

*"Thinking Inside the Box"* 9th-12th Grades (March 17-19)

<http://powellhouse.org/index.php/youth-programs>

## Friends Community Scholarship

To support the reach of Quaker education, we are initiating a Friends Community Scholarship program for those who are involved in the Friends community. This

program aims to nourish the core of our mission, our Quaker faith. Open to any student applying to Oakwood, a

Friends Community Scholar will receive a \$5,000 annual grant for a day student or a \$7,500 annual grant for

boarding student. This grant is in addition to any need based financial grant. **Essays should be submitted to**

**[admissions@oakwoodfriends.org](mailto:admissions@oakwoodfriends.org) by February 15th** [To learn more, visit the NYYM website.](#)



## Youth Witness Opportunities



### Quaker "Outside the Lines"

Anybody can Quaker Outside the Lines, and many of us do. **It means to take your Quaker faith out into your community in meaningful ways--outside the meetinghouse walls.** There's a grant! If you're a member of New York Yearly Meeting, you can receive up to \$200 reimbursement for a project in which you Quaker Outside the Lines. The money can go to rental spaces, publicity, supplies, or food for your project. To learn more and apply visit: <http://www.nyym.org/?q=quaker-outside-the-lines>

## Friends Journal's 4th annual Student Voices Project

is a great way to share and honor the voices of Quaker youth. This year FJ is asking students to write a letter to



President Donald Trump. Submissions are welcome from all middle school and high school students (Quaker and non-Quaker) at Friends schools and also Quaker students in other educational venues, such as public schools and homeschooling.

**The deadline is February 13, 2017.** A selection of the letters will be mailed to the White House and featured in the May 2017 issue. Honorees will also receive a free one-year subscription to *Friends Journal* and will be recognized by [Friends Council on Education](#) for their work. For more information or to submit: <http://www.friendsjournal.org/studentvoices/>



### 2017 Focus: Islamophobia

Monday-Wednesday, February 20-22, 2017

Cost \$400 (Limited Scholarship Assistance is Available.) For more information, contact Christy D'Ambrosio, Youth Director, First Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY [christy@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:christy@firstpresalbany.org) or 518-423-4763

**theravensperch.com literary magazine announces a call for Children's Letters to the President** Inviting young writers to send letters of advice, thoughts, wishes, congratulations, dreams, requests, hopes, concerns, problems, encouragement, etc. Typed letters or especially hand-written letters (scanned) should be sent to [theravensperching@gmail.com](mailto:theravensperching@gmail.com). The aim is "to foster open communication between our children and their president and raise the bar in the arena of civic engagement and discourse."

## SUMMER 2017!



Quaker Summer Sleep-Away Opportunities for Kids

### Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)

#### Summer Camp

### Youth Theological Initiative announces 2017 YTI Summer Programs

YTI seeks to gather current

Registration for camps is underway! Visit the Quaker RE Collaborative website for a [listing of Quaker camps in the US](#).

### Opportunity at Chatham-Summit Meeting

**Invitation to Quaker Teens to participate!**

[Email CYFS](#)

to connect with organizers.



10th and 11th grade students from diverse racial, ethnic, denominational, theological and cultural perspectives, in order to study Christian theology and connect that learning with the needs of communities. **July 2-22, 2017** at the Emory University campus in Atlanta, GA

**New:** 5-day version of the 3-week program, called "Taste of YTI," which is open to students currently in 9th -11th grades, June 11-15, 2017.

**Applications for both opportunities are due March 1st , 2017**



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