

August 2019

Friends, last month was Summer Sessions. Our first year using the Pay as Led system was a success – both financially and by enabling many new and returning Friends to attend. If you weren't one of the 500 people who attended, you can get a sense of what happened by reading the NYYM [Epistle](#) and the [State of the Society Report](#). The Summer Sessions minutes will be online this week.

See below for an announcement of an [action plan](#) to nurture young adult Friends in our yearly meeting. The plan is the result of many NYYM committees responding to the Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series [final report](#) given at Summer Sessions. I urge you to read both, if you haven't already done so. This is the future of our yearly meeting.

Please share your events and your stories with Friends across the yearly meeting. [Email](#) or use this [form](#) to submit items to the monthly **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. Photos and artwork are welcome. The September Spark will feature articles on Summer Sessions from new attenders, a couple of stories of international Quaker work, and information about Fall Sessions. The following issue, in November, is titled **Light Behind the Walls**: Quaker worship in prison. This issue is being guest-edited by [Jill McLellan](#) of the Prisons Committee. Thank you, Jill!

The next gathering of New York Yearly Meeting is Fall Sessions! Write it on your calendar: November 1-3 at Powell House, NYYM's retreat center in Old Chatham, NY. Hosted by Northeastern Regional Meeting. Registration information will be in next month's Spark and online.

Don't forget to check out (and Like!) the NYYM social media accounts: the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#). Enjoy the abundance of late summer!

– Sarah Way, Editor

PS - Don't miss this [opportunity](#) to apply to be an ARCH coordinator!

News & Announcements



Last chance to take advantage of the MATCHING GRANT!

\$50,000 is available to match new and increased gifts offered to New York Yearly Meeting by **September 1, 2019**. This match is made possible by a generous gift from a fellow NYYM member.

Be part of building vibrant community in NYYM. [Donate online](#) or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750.

Read the Report on Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series

At NYYM's 2019 Summer Sessions we received a report on the Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series, a series of retreats and workshops held for young adults over the past year. The report includes a list of things young adults need to feel welcome in the yearly meeting. That report is available [online](#). We invite Friends to read the report and consider its recommendations.

Announcement of Actions Being Taken to Nurture Young Adult Friends

(written by Yana Landowne, Leo Quirk, and Holly White, on behalf of several NYYM committees, on the Friday of Summer Sessions 2019.)

Throughout this week, many concerns have been raised related to the nurturing of our youth and young adult Friends.

We hear you.

We are taking active steps to support you.

Several concrete action items rose out of conversations today. Spiritual Nurture Working Group, in partnership with Youth Committee and Aging Concerns Committee, is creating a spiritual mentorship program serving young

adults and new Friends. They are also developing a mentorship workshop at Powell House. A working group formed to look deeper into the money and job description needed for a Youth and Young Adult Field Secretary. Ministry Coordinating Committee committed to addressing the 8 concerns raised in the report from Young Adult Friends, one concern at each of their meetings this year. Another group is contacting youth to ask them to state their needs in their voices. Many other committees discussed concrete ways to nurture the gifts and leadership of young adults and learning Friends. Monthly and quarterly meetings are also encouraged to further this discussion. We can all take a part in nourishing our Quaker community.

Interview with Nadine Hoover of AVP

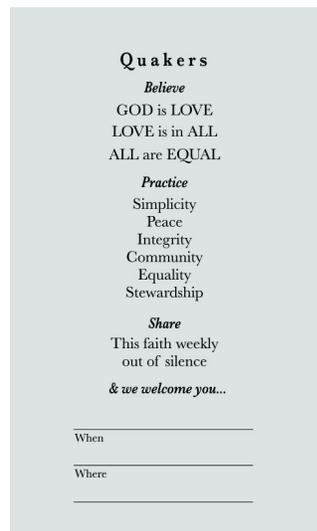
Mark Helpmeet's [interview](#) with NYYM Friend Nadine Hoover is hot off the presses at [Northern Spirit Radio](#).

Nadine Hoover tells her story of working for peace through the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) since 1978, integrating trauma resiliency and developmental play for personal transformation, and reaching out through Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific since 2005.

In her book, *Creating Cultures of Peace: A Movement of Love and Conscience* (2018), she describes the integration of these basics with communities of conscience, liberation from oppression, organizing based on discernment for social transformation, and calls for both ecological and social peace and justice. She describe stories from the Power of Goodness that peace workers use to spread the message of peace more widely, growing the story collection begun by Quakers in the 1950s by translating to new languages and adding new stories.

NYYM Annual (formerly Advance) Reports

The Annual Reports from NYYM committees and affiliated groups will not be included in the printed Yearbook this year. A printed copy of the reports, including the minutes from Fall and Spring Sessions and the financial reports, was placed into every meeting and worship group's book bag at the Mosher Book Table. If you'd like to read these reports in a printed form, and you weren't at Summer Sessions to grab your own copy, a copy should now be available at your meeting.



Quaker Outreach Cards!

The Outreach Cards above are available through the Youth Committee for general use. They can be mailed in batches of one hundred or more to monthly meetings that would like to use them as a simple and easy introduction to our beloved community. Email [Howard](#) and we will respond with a simple questionnaire.

—In thanks, Howard Gibbs-Hobgood, Clerk of Youth Committee

NYQM Africa Education Committee invitation

New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM)'s Africa Education Committee works with the Kisangura primary and secondary schools in Mugumu, Tanzania. If you are interested in visiting or volunteering at the schools, joining the committee, finding out about, or supporting this work in any way, please [email](#) Marna Herry.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATES for Future NYYM Sessions

Friends at Summer Sessions were enthusiastic about the work NYYM is doing, and the work it plans to do in the future. To keep the momentum going, consider attending Fall and Spring Sessions, where we meet to worship with a concern for the business of our community. Here are the upcoming dates (and locations if known):



2019

NYYM Fall Sessions, November 1-3 (Host: Northeastern Region; Location: Powell House)

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 & Location: TBA)

2021

NYYM Spring Sessions, April 9-11 (Host: LIQ [invited])

NYYM Summer Sessions, July 25-31 (at Silver Bay YMCA)

NYYM Fall Sessions, November 5-7 (Host & Location: TBA)

Upcoming Conferences at Powell House

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

Conferences for adults and families:

[Creating Generous Congregations](#) Facilitated

by Colin Saxton

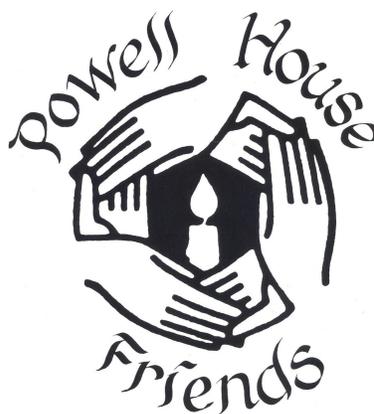
August 16-18

This interactive and practical workshop is 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.

[Self Care in the Craft of Teaching](#): Tools for Expanding your Practice

August 16-18

The Children's Arts Guild partners with educators to bring authenticity-based, social-emotional learning to school communities across the country. In our **Authenticity in the Classroom** program, we bring self-care workshops to educators that focus on helping teachers tap into the passion for their craft to address stress in their professional lives. This workshop is designed to help



teachers deepen their self-care practice and continue to build a community of support. Co-led by NYYM Friend Mark LaRiviere.

[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!

Upcoming youth programs:

[Wild Edibles II](#) – 3rd to 4th grade with a parent, August 23-25

Jo Clayson and her service dog Ace will return for a second round of searching the Powell House grounds for edible plants in the woods, fields and maybe ponds. Bring your adult, your curiosity, and a story or two to share from your summer adventures.

[Are You For Real?](#) – 6th to 8th grade, September 13-15

How do you know when something is real? How do you know when **you** are being authentic? When do you get to be **real**? This conference should be **real** fun and **real** interesting.

[FutureScape](#) – 9th to 12th grade, September 27-29

A Quaker practice is to ask queries rather than give answers to seekers. So we'll practice that practice. During this conference we will work on developing better questions for ourselves and our communities. Questions like, "how do you want to be in the world?" instead of "what do you want to be?" With the right questions, we can start to focus our visions for our future selves.

Family Fellowship at Perry City for Permaculture Day

Saturday, August 24 at Perry City Friends Meeting, 6324 Rt. 227, Trumansburg, NY 14886

The Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) will provide an intergenerational family fellowship opportunity hosted by Perry City Friends Meeting, in conjunction with the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute's PERMACULTURE DAY. FCRJ will offer activities that build our understanding and relatedness to earth and to each other. Event will take place rain or shine.

10:00-12:00 Activities for all ages include spontaneous play (materials provided); story telling; activities you bring to share;
11:00-12:00 Medicinal Herb Walk
12:00-12:45 lunch by donation, provided by Perry City Friends (consider bringing your own cup, bowl, plate & silverware)
12:45-2:00 Making bee 🐝 houses; Xerces Sunflower 🌻 Project

Child care provided with registration on site.

RSVP appreciated but not required. Contact [Angela Hopkins](#).

Questions? Contact [Donna Beckwith](#).

Holding Earth in the Light

A gathering in silence on the eve of the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit

7:00-9:00 p.m., Sunday, September 22
15th Street Quaker Meeting House
15 Rutherford Place (between 15 & 16th Street and 2nd & 3rd Ave.)
New York City



Please arrive BY 7:20 p.m. We will gather in silence from 7:30-8:00 p.m. From 8:00-9:00 p.m., there will be a period of contemplative sharing led by Christian Figueres, former head of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

If you wish to attend, please register at this [online link](#) or send an [email](#). People of all faiths, or none, are welcome to attend.

Spiritually Deepening E-Retreats

Friends General Conference occasionally offers **spiritual deepening e-retreats**, which are opportunities for sustained, grounded exploration of a particular topic through Internet interactions on your schedule at home. “Understanding and Healing White



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Supremacy” will run from September 22-October 18, and “Weaving a Wider Welcome” is scheduled for October 27-November 22. Check [this link](#) for additional information.



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.

World Quaker Day is October 6, 2019

Join the Quaker family around the world in worship and celebration!

This year’s theme is **Sustainability: Planting seeds of renewal for the world we love**.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) invites you to join Quakers around the world for the 6th annual [World Quaker Day](#). Across our churches, meetings, countries and sections, we feel the power of God connecting us into a faithful family. We celebrate all expressions of Quaker worship! Visit the online [resources page](#) for ideas on how to get involved.

WORLD QUAKER DAY



OCTOBER 6, 2019

Regional Meeting Retreats at Powell House

DEEPENING OUR WORSHIP - the Purchase Meeting Retreat

October 4-6, 2019, at Powell House, NY

The theme is Deepening Our Worship, and we mean it in all senses, from how we are when we come together on Sunday, to how we are in the rest of our lives. Over the course of the weekend, we will talk about what we revere in our lives, taking inspiration from “worship’s” root in where we find worth. While this retreat is being hosted by Purchase Meeting, it is open to all meetings in Purchase Quarter, and to anyone interested in the theme of deepening our experience of the worth in our lives.

Brooklyn Meeting Retreat

November 8-10, 2019 at Powell House, NY

The theme is still being discussed, but no matter what it is, this retreat will be a 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.

Save the Date for the Nightingales weekend!

Please mark your calendars for **October 11-13**, for a Nightingales weekend in Ithaca, NY. This is a weekend for everyone who loves to sing. More details to follow as time gets closer. If you would like to be part of the organizing effort, please let us know!

If you know of other Friends who would like to receive messages about upcoming Nightingales weekends, or if you would like to be added to the email list, please send email addresses to [Bronwyn Mohlke](#).

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](#).

Staff Travel Calendar

August

Aug. 23-24: Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, New York City: Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary)

September

Sept. 13-14: ARCH Staff Retreat: Callie Janoff (ARCH Director)

Sept. 16-19: Superintendents and Secretaries Gathering: Steve Mohlke (General Secretary)

Sept. 28: Budget Saturday: Callie Janoff and Steve Mohlke



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