

September 2019

Hello Friends. The next chance to gather together as a yearly meeting is **FALL SESSIONS**, November 1-3, hosted by Northeastern Regional Meeting at Powell House, the NYYM retreat center in Old Chatham, NY. Online registration will be starting NEXT WEEK. Read a [letter](#) from the clerk inviting you to Fall Sessions. A bit more information is [here](#). All Fall Sessions information, registration, advance documents, schedule, etc. will be on the [NYYM website](#). To stay overnight at Powell House, [click here](#).

September **SPARK**, our printed newsletter, is now available [online](#)! Read essays by [first-time attenders](#) of Summer Sessions; a summary of the young adult Friends' [report](#) and a first [response](#); reports from Quakers in [India](#) and [Africa](#); upcoming [events](#) around the yearly meeting; and more. The attractively designed PDF is [here](#). Print copies are in the mail.

Sharing news and events among Friends helps strengthen our community. [Email](#) me 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. Photos and artwork are welcome. The November issue is titled **Light Behind the Walls**: Quaker worship in prison, guest-edited by [Jill McLellan](#) of the Prisons Committee. Many thanks to her. Deadline for submissions is **October 1**.

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 the [opportunity](#) to apply to be an ARCH coordinator — for you or another Quaker you know!

Letter from the Clerk

An Invitation to Fall Sessions

November 1-3 at Powell House

Fifty years ago, then NYYM Clerk Miriam Brush quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson on the front page of the first *Spark*, March 1970:

Religion ... is not form. It is a life. It is the order and soundness of a [person]. It is not something else to be got, to be added, but is a new life of those faculties you have. It is to do right. It is to love, it is to serve, it is to think, it is to be humble.

At Summer Sessions 2019, our first pay-as-led session, we welcomed more first timers and Friends previously long absent than possibly ever before. And there was a strong sense of this new life that Emerson spoke of. As a result, we expect to hear reports and proposals at Fall Sessions at our own beloved Powell House on how to move forward with confidence into our future, addressing our needs and concerns.

Although the agenda is very much a work in progress as I write, we—New York Yearly Meeting Friends—are hoping to hear of ways to address concerns that are important to all of us, including efforts to address the needs of the young adults in our community, new concepts of membership, ways to live better into our ideals of true diversity of all kinds, and creative ways to address the financial constraints that we face.

Although we all hear frightening reports every day from the world at large, among Friends we work together as a beloved community to find constructive answers for our community's needs. Welcome to Fall Sessions. Bring your ideas and your loving presence. Know that you will be welcome; that your presence will make us more complete!

—Jeffrey Aaron, Clerk, New York Yearly Meeting

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](#). Friends are invited to read the report and consider its recommendations.

Upcoming Events

New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions

Friday-Sunday, November 1-3, 2019

at Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Road, & Old Chatham Meetinghouse, 539 County Road 13, Old Chatham, New York

Northeastern Regional Meeting invites you to [Fall Sessions 2019](#). 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 and ensure that the decisions we make will be reported back to each meeting represented. All the information you need, including registration, the business agenda, advance documents, and the full schedule will be available [online](#). Please join us!



The weekend starts with an interactive, intergenerational Friday Program from Jens Braun, a member of the nearby Quaker Intentional Village in Canaan (QIVC), on the challenges of living our faith. The rest of the weekend will contain opportunities for gathered worship, meeting for business, committee meetings, display spaces, and creating the Blessed Community one hug at a time.

Visit the [Fall Sessions website](#) for information on overnight accommodations and meals. Members of the Earthcare Witness Committee are planning a youth program for teenagers titled "Solutions for Our Planet!" To request hospitality, special meals, or child and youth programs, **you must register by the deadline, October 21**. An email announcement will be sent out once online registration is open.

SAVE THE DATES for Future NYYM Sessions

All Friends are invited to Fall, Spring, and Summer Sessions, where New York

Yearly Meeting meets to worship with a concern for the business of our community. Mark next year's Sessions on your calendars.



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)

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:

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.

Tag, Not Tag – 4th-5th grade, October 4-5

Tag games can be fun, but they can also turn "not fun" pretty quick. Small groups will invent and teach a new tag game to the rest of us. How will we settle disputes? How will we adapt to the needs of the other players? How do we win, yet not have losers? Come find out!

Falling Up – 6th-8th grade, November 15-17

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

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



FGC
FRIENDS
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sustained, grounded exploration of a particular topic through Internet interactions on your schedule at home. “Understanding and Healing White 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.

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 the root of the word “worship” 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.

[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.

Racism — Past, Present, Future

Sunday, October 6, at New Brunswick Meeting

Presenter: Helen Garay Toppins

There will be an interactive presentation at New Brunswick Meeting.

All persons are invited.

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



Nightingales Weekend – for those who like to sing October 11-13 in Ithaca, NY

The Nightingales is a group of Friends who get together to sing. Come join us for a weekend of singing, potluck food, and the fellowship of open hearts and shared voices in song. You do not have to be a great, or even a good singer to participate. If you can talk, you can sing. We gather not to perform, but to share the joy of fellowship and the love of singing.

You don't have to come for the whole weekend to participate. There will be opportunities to sing Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday late afternoon, and Saturday after dinner. Those that stay overnight Saturday will warm up the Ithaca Meetinghouse with song before worship on Sunday.



Come and be nourished, restored and transformed through the gift of communal singing. You can [register online](#) now. Call Bronwyn with any questions or requests for help: (607) 220-3219

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, 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.



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.

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](#).

Need Help with Your Meetinghouse?

There are funds for that!

FGC's [Friends Meeting House Fund](#)

Friends General Conference provides both grants and loans for meetinghouse-related financial needs. The Friends Meeting House Fund supports Quaker meetings by:

- Guiding meetings through the process of securing a loan to buy, renovate, or add on to other structures on meeting house property
- Awarding small grants for meeting house repairs or improvements
- Promoting more sustainable and energy efficient meeting houses through Green Meeting House Fund grants

NYYM's [Meeting Houses and Properties Fund](#)

A designated use fund for building and repairing meetinghouses that is under the care of the NYYM Trustees. Applications must be sent to the Trustees by the end of February for grants in that year, and decisions are made by the end of May.

Staff Travel Calendar

September

Sept. 22: *Visiting Ridgewood Meeting*: Steve Mohlke (General Secretary)

Sept. 28: *Budget Saturday, Purchase Meeting*: Callie Janoff (ARCH Director) and Steve Mohlke

Sept. 29: *Visiting Cornwall Meeting*: Steve Mohlke

October

Oct. 6: *Racism: Past, Present, Future—An Interactive Workshop, New Brunswick Meeting:* Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary), facilitator. All welcome.

Oct. 21-23: *Pastor's Retreat:* Steve Mohlke

November

Nov. 1-3: *Fall Sessions, Powell House, Old Chatham NY:* Chad Gilmartin (Digital Communications Director), Callie Janoff, Steve Mohlke, Helen Garay Toppins, 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



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