

December 2019

Dear Friends,

Hello! I hope you are having a joyful holiday season and are looking forward to the days growing longer and brighter after the solstice tomorrow. Please take a moment to read about the upcoming gatherings and other exciting things happening in New York Yearly Meeting.

The new **NYYM mentoring program** is starting, and it's time to sign up if you're interested in participating. [More below.](#) The deadline to fill out an interest form is **January 8**.

[Coordinating Committee Weekend](#), for those serving on NYYM committees and those interested in the work of NYYM committees, is at Powell House on January 24-26, 2020. You can register [here](#), by January 17, please.

SAVE THE DATE: The winter **Meeting for Discernment** will take place at Ithaca Meeting on February 8, 2020, with a snow date of Feb. 15. Meeting for discernment is a period of extended worship, often on a particular query. More details will be released soon.

The next issue of *Spark*, coming out in March, will be guest-edited by the **Indian Affairs Committee**! It looks like we'll have a lot of art in this one, which is fabulous. If you'd like to write about Indian Affairs, email [me](#) or one of the Indian Affairs clerks, [Liseli Haines](#) or [Buffy Curtis](#). I also accept submissions that don't fall under a specific theme. Articles for *Spark* should be 400-600 words long, emailed to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org).

Remember to send **news and events** from your meeting to share with and inspire other Friends. Items will appear on social media, in InfoShare, or in Spark. [Email](#) or use this [form](#) to submit items.

Speaking of social media: You can find NYYM there! See the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

Happy holidays and warm solstice wishes,  
Sarah Way, Editor

## News & Announcements

### Join the NYYM Mentoring Program

Friends, you asked and we answered. We are excited to announce the launch of a pilot mentoring program for young adult friends in New York Yearly Meeting. Read more about the [structure and expectations](#) of the program. Sound good? Please fill out the [interest form](#) by January 8.



Not quite ready but want to be involved in building this program for years to come? Join the [advisory committee](#)!

**Don't delay – the deadline to submit an interest form is **January 8.****

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### New NYYM Witness in the World Video Series!

"Witness in the World" is a new series of videos about Friends in NYYM who are active in Witness activities. The series is produced by Leo Quirk, co-clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, and stars NYYM Friends like you. You can view the videos on the [NYYM YouTube channel](#). Watch and get inspired!

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### Powell House SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget that monthly meetings (and individuals!) can sign up for a subscription to Powell House that enables them to send one person free to each adult conference. See [here](#) for more details.

## Upcoming Events

### Coordinating Committees Weekend

Jan. 24-26, 2020, at [Powell House](#)

## Coordinating

Committees Weekend (CCW) will take place at Powell House January 24-26. CCW serves several purposes. While it is not a business meeting where Friends can make decisions on behalf of our yearly meeting, it is an opportunity for the coordinating committees (CCs)



to get a lot of their work done and to share their work with others, outside the silos of their separate focus areas. (Coordinating committees coordinate the work of NYYM committees with a related purpose or focus; there is a Witness, Ministry, and General Services CC.) It is a time when all Friends can gather to review and discuss common areas of concern in ways that are not easily done during spring, summer and fall business meeting gatherings, with their full agendas. Perhaps most of all, the weekend gathering is an opportunity for Friends who do not serve on CCs to visit and observe the different areas of focus and the current discernment. Friends visiting the CCs can simply listen and observe or participate when they are led to do so. Whether you expect to attend because of a commitment to a CC, or if you would like to do so as an interested Friend without a specific commitment, you are welcome. Please register at Powell House as early as possible for their food and accommodation planning. There are no fees other than the expenses of Powell House accommodations, which are graciously discounted by Powell House for this NYYM weekend.

– Jeffrey Aaron, NYYM Clerk

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## Upcoming Conferences at Powell House

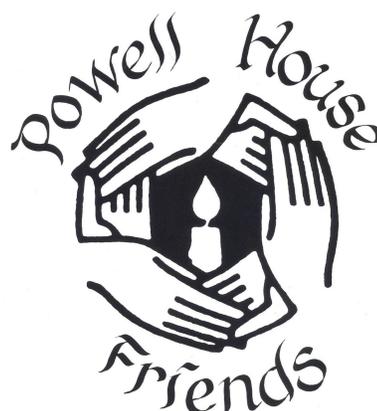
Powell House is the conference and retreat center for New York Yearly Meeting.

*Conferences for adults and families:*

Cherish Friends and Family—New Year's Celebration

December 30, 2019-January 1, 2020

This annual, multigenerational conference is one of our most popular. There are workshop slots for YOU to offer an activity. Bring your instruments, a song, story, poem and/or skit to share with



everyone at Cabaret! Celebration concludes with brunch on January 1st. Come and be part of this intergenerational celebration.

### [Dwelling Deep, a Contemplative Retreat](#)

with Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon

**January 17-20, 2020 (Through Monday lunch)**

During this extended weekend, Friends are invited to enter more fully into the silence and to experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. This retreat will include the opportunity for solitude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and “active” silence.

### [Friends Decision-making and Clerking: Participating in Meetings for Business with Joy and Confidence](#)

with Arthur M. Larrabee and Steve Mohlke

**January 31-February 2, 2020**

This is a workshop for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of Quaker decision-making; it's for clerks, but not just for clerks. It is an opportunity to get better grounded in what Quaker decision-making is all about. If you want to better understand how clerking and business meetings work, this is the conference for you.

### [Brent Bill: Beauty, Truth, Life, and Love](#)

Join us for a Pilgrimage on Positive Spirituality

**February 7-9, 2020**

Many of us are not living abundantly in an age of material abundance. But there is a way to live a balanced, deeply satisfying, and rich life. Join us for this journey away from duty and obligation and onto a journey into Brent's latest book: *Beauty, Truth, Life, and Love: Four Essentials for the Abundant Life*.

### *Upcoming youth programs:*

[In A New Place](#) – young adults (11<sup>th</sup> grade and up); January 17 -19

Being a young adult today often means finding ourselves in new places. Making connections, finding friends and having meaningful work can be challenging. Finding your tribe in whomever you meet. Welcoming new arrivals to the place you are in. Feeding your spirit wherever you are. All these help to ground you as you move from place to place. Come learn from one another how to do it.

[Freeze!](#) – 6th-8th Grade, January 31-Feb 2

January is like this in Old Chatham: Freeze. Thaw. Freeze.

So that is what we will do—play Freeze! Through improv games and other creative activities we'll try on different ways of being and connecting in the world. Then we'll thaw with relaxation activities and warm nourishing treats. And we're hoping weather cooperates and freezing wins out over thawing for sledding and skating.

### [Stars & Space](#) – 9th-12th Grade, February 21-23

“Light comes from a time already gone.”

It is a new moon this weekend, so the stars will shine brighter. A cold night; some warm friends. The far-away stars will spark our close-to-the-heart discussions around energy and light and feeding our souls. We'll consider what shines through from the distant past and what of our own light might reach into the future.

Click [here](#) for a full list of upcoming youth conferences.

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All are invited to create together!

## Ribbon Project 2020: Panels for Peace!

Come join us **January 11, 2020**, 2:30-5pm at 15th Street Meetinghouse to record on a cloth panel what you love and what you cannot bear to lose in a nuclear war. Everyone is welcome, all ages, bring your Friends and friends. Please collect and bring fabric, buttons, needles, thread, scissors, etc. to share. [Make a picture, write a poem, create a panel.](#)

And plan to march with us carrying your 'Ribbon' in a silent walk on August 1, from the New York Public Library at 42nd Street to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the UN, as we remember the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945, 75 years ago. [Be a witness for kindness, for compassion, for peace.](#)

For more information, contact [June Tano](#), visit the New York Quarterly Meeting [website](#), or visit the Ribbon International [website](#).

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**SUPPORT [YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS!](#)**

## Upcoming Programs for Young Adults

For more information on any of these events, please [click here](#). You can also email [Marissa Badgley](#) with questions.

### Virtual Meeting for Worship

This semi-programmed hour of worship will include a message by Daniela Salazar and music by Mel Passler. Click [this link](#) at the start time to join via Zoom video/phone conference.

**Date:** 10:00am to 11:00am EST, January 18, 2020



### Retreat: Discovering and Living into my Spiritual Gifts

#### & Mentoring Program Kick-off

**Date:** February 8-9, 2020, (6:00pm Sat.-4:00pm Sun.)  
(begins with Meeting for Discernment on February 8)

**Location:** [Ithaca Monthly Meeting](#)

[Register here!](#)

### SAVE THE DATE for these future events:

#### Workshop: Giving Vocal Ministry and Lifting my Quaker Voice

**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 9:30am-4:30pm EST

**Location:** Manasquan Monthly Meeting (NJ)

[Register here!](#)

### Virtual Meeting for Worship

**Date:** 10:00am to 11am EST, March 21

Join via Zoom [here](#).

### Workshop on Fundamentals of Spiritual Leadership

**Date:** Saturday, April 18

**Location:** Saranac Lake Monthly Meeting

...And there's more! To see the rest of the YAF schedule through June 2020, [click here](#).

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## Interfaith Breakfast in Flushing, Queens

Flushing Meeting holds a monthly interfaith breakfast at its historic meetinghouse in Queens, open to everyone. The next interfaith breakfast is on **Sunday, February 9, 8:30am**, at the [Flushing Friends](#) meetinghouse, located at 137-16 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11354. All are welcome. (PLEASE NOTE we will skip the January meeting due to scheduling

conflicts)!

8:30am - Breakfast

9:00am - Prayers & Concerns

9:30am - Conversation on "Fit and Feisty at Any Age" (how to achieve your health and career goals) led by Mark Klein, founder of Customized Career Coaching.

Please bring any prayers, concerns, poetry, songs (or food) you'd like to share. [Advance registration requested](#). Hope to see you there!

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## How Does God Call Us to Act? [FWCC Sustainability](#): An Online Conference with Friends Worldwide

Saturday, February 22, 2020

*“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”*

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

The Friends of FWCC (Friends' World Committee for Consultation) have recognized the need to respond to sustainability. In 2016, at our last world gathering, we generated the Pisac Sustainability Minute. This has led to exploring the work Quakers are doing on sustainability across the world, and asking Friends and yearly meetings to take action to promote sustainability at all levels, including the global level.

But now, almost four years on, we recognize the need to gather, to share, and to understand where we are as a family sharing this urgent concern.

This online conference will create space to hear from one another around the world on matters relating to sustainability and to understand how as Quakers we are being called to act. How do we feel called to act? How does our radical faith speak to us?

On Saturday February 22, 2020, there will be an online conference spanning 11 hours. You will be able to join one of three start times, for a duration of 3 hours. All of the worship sharing will be in English, but if you need French, you will be able to join in the second start time, and if you need Spanish, you will be able to join the third start time. We will be using the platform Zoom to host this call.

Click [here](#) for the full breakdown of details, including technical requirements and a link to registration.

If you have any questions, please email [sustainability@fwcc.world](mailto:sustainability@fwcc.world).



## FGC Gathering 2020: Way Will Open

June 28th - July 4th, 2020 | Radford University in Radford, VA

## Save the Date for the 2020 FGC Gathering

The 2020 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering of Friends from all over the country will be held in Radford, Virginia, June 28-July 4, 2020. [Workshops](#) have just been announced! Early registration doesn't open until April 1, but you can sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

## Opportunities

### Quaker United Nations Summer School

The application period for the Quaker United Nations Summer School is now OPEN. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2020**. Application and reference forms are [available here](#).



The Quaker United Nations Summer School provides the opportunity for a group of 25 young people to come together to learn more about Quaker work at the international level, and to witness the United Nations in action, as part of a dynamic 12-day residential program. The program is grounded in QUNO Geneva's work, with a focus on Peace, Disarmament, Human Rights, Migration, Sustainable and Just Economic Systems, and Climate Change. Participants will be able to observe sessions within the United Nations, meet and hear from Civil Society leaders, and engage in facilitated dialogue with like-minded peers about the issues that are most pertinent for our global community today.

## 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](#), Co-Executive Director, Elsie K. Powell House, Inc. [regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org)*

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### [Program Assistant](#) at the Quaker United Nations Office

**Status:** Full-Time, Specific Term (13 months) beginning August 1, 2020

**Application Deadline:** **January 24, 2020**

The Program Assistant (PA) position is for recent college graduates who are interested in international affairs and the United Nations, and who have a commitment to Quaker principles of peace, nonviolence and equality.



PA duties are split between program-specific work and helping with the general running of the office. Program work varies depending on the work priorities at any one time, but you can expect to monitor world news and developments in a particular area, attend UN meetings, plan events and conduct research.

PAs contribute actively to all parts of QUNO's work, including general office, catering and domestic duties. The general office tasks can range from coordinating the layout and printing of publications, preparing mailings, answering the phone, organizing meetings, to clearing up afterwards.

Program Assistants receive a modest salary to help cover accommodation, food, and miscellaneous expenses. The position also provides medical and dental insurance for the year, if not already covered.

Click [here](#) for the full job description. Apply by **January 24**.

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## Pendle Hill Seeks Executive Director

[Pendle Hill](#) seeks an Executive Director. The Executive Director, in concert with the Board, leads Pendle Hill, a Quaker study, retreat and conference center that seeks to transform lives and foster peace with justice in the world. The Executive Director advances the values, mission, and vision of Pendle Hill. A full [job description](#) and some [materials of interest](#) are on their website. Review of applications will start in January and continue until the position is filled.



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## Grants for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism supports the study and practice of Christian mysticism with grants of up to \$1,000 to selected individuals, groups or institutions. Proposals for 2020 grants are due by March 1. For an application or more information, email Secretary [Kathleen McVey](#).

## Staff Travel Calendar

### January

Jan. 24-26: *Coordinating Committee Weekend, Powell House*: Marissa

Badgley (Interim Young Adult Field Secretary), Callie Janoff (ARCH Director), Steve Mohlke (General Secretary), Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary), Sarah Way (Communications Director)

**Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Friends Decision-Making and Clerking**, Powell House: 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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