

January 2020

Dear Friends,

Want to spend time with other Quakers? Need a respite from the rest of the world? Surround yourself with peace-loving folks at these two upcoming events:

- [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.
- [Meeting for Discernment](#) at Ithaca Meeting on February 8, 2020, with a snow date of Feb. 15. Join together with other Friends in an extended period of worship. [See below](#) for the queries.

You should receive a copy of the January *Spark* in your mailbox this week. 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 article and art submissions that don't fall under a specific theme. Articles for *Spark* should be 400-600 words long, emailed to 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.

—Sarah Way, Editor

PS - Want more frequent communication from NYYM? Follow and check the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

News & Announcements

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Volunteers Needed

Do you or someone you know have a gift and a leading for working with children? It's not too early to start thinking about volunteering with Junior Yearly Meeting at Summer Sessions 2020. The time you give to our young Friends at Summer Sessions has a great impact on their lives.



Registration for Summer Sessions (July 19-25, 2020) will open on **February 1**. If you're interested in volunteering with JYM, please contact the JYM coordinators before you register, as being a JYM volunteer includes financial support for attending Summer Sessions.

Please contact the JYM coordinators, Dawn and Ellie, with any questions or as soon as you know whether you are led to volunteer. We hope to hear from you by **February 15**. All JYM volunteers should expect to attend the JYM Planning Weekend held at Powell House on June 5-7. The weekend will give us a chance to get to know each other and to prepare the programs for the JYM groups.

The JYM Coordinators:

Dawn Pozzi: 609-571-5672, quakerdawn@gmail.com

Ellie Rosenberg: 607-227-1403, ellierosenbergZ@gmail.com

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!

Newly Renovated Wing at Rahway-Plainfield Meetinghouse

Rahway-Plainfield (NJ) Friends Meeting has replaced their school wing with a mostly new building called the community wing. The new entrance is obvious to visitors, with a porch that leads to the foyer/hallway that connects the meetinghouse with the community wing. The wing consists of a space for

childcare or youth to spend time together, a community room that can hold up to about 50 people seated around tables (more if seated theater style), and a compact and reconfigured kitchen. The library is now an open, accessible area next to the office. Two classrooms, separated by pocket doors, are at the north end of the wing. One of the classrooms has a gas fireplace, and the other is home to a large grandfather clock given to us by a member.



A date in the spring will be set for community residents and members of other Friends meetings to visit. NYQM will publicize the date once it is set.

New York Quarterly Meeting's Jubilee Year!

[New York Quarterly Meeting](#) (NYQM), which includes all the meetings within New York City, is in the middle of celebrating a Jubilee Year, running from July 2019 to July 2020.

From a Jan. 2019 report: “NYQM Ministry & Counsel recognizes that we are moving towards the completion of business that required many years of long and heavy laboring with difficult issues, pulling us in many directions. As the NYQM approaches nearly 50 years of existence, it feels like it is time to pause and take some time to turn inward, to actively and attentively create space for spiritually nurturing ourselves and our community. We acknowledge that we are in a time of transition. Jubilee Years, as practiced by many Quaker Meetings in the last quarter-century, are used to revitalize a spiritual community by shifting their focus of time, energy and effort from doing “business” towards spiritual growth, renewal, Friendly Support, and fellowship.”

There have been many events as part of the Jubilee year, with more planned. The next one is a:

[Meeting for Eating](#)

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30pm

15th Street Meetinghouse in the Friends Seminary Cafeteria

NYQM had a rich potluck tradition that some fear has faded away. Help renew this! Enjoy other beloved traditions of our community as we celebrate Jubilee!

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

Winter Meeting for Discernment

Feb. 8, 2020 (snow date: Feb. 15)

Ithaca Meeting: Third Street Meetinghouse, 120 Third Street, Ithaca, NY

Meetings for Discernment are periods of extended, waiting worship designed to discern leadings and strengthen connections in our yearly meeting. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue into the afternoon with a break for

lunch in the middle. The following topic and queries are offered as focal points for worship:

Seeing and being seen in community: reflections on Friends' experiences of power and authority.

- When have unequal power dynamics gotten in the way of your/our best spiritual discernment?
- When have you felt powerful? When have you felt powerless?

Please [register online](#) or call the registrar, Bronwyn Mohlke: 607-220-3219. Meeting for Discernment will be followed by a retreat for young adults; see [Upcoming Programs for Young Adults](#).



Upcoming Conferences at Powell House

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

Conferences for adults and families:

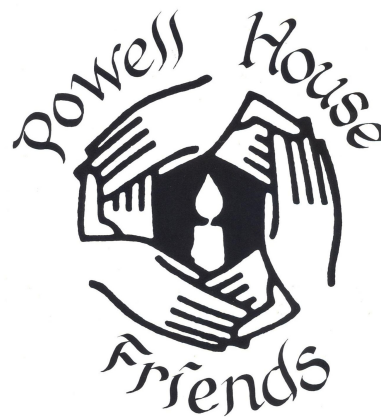
[Friends Decision-making and](#)

[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.



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

Join us for a Pilgrimage on Positive Spirituality

February 7-9, 2020

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*.

[Anger as Ally: It All Depends](#)

February 7-9, 2020 (same weekend as Brent Bill, above)

Anger is a very human experience, yet many of us have internalized messages that anger is bad. What might be possible if we give our anger our attention?

[Winter Wonderland!](#)

February 14-16, 2020

Come for an unprogrammed weekend! Bring yourself, your family, and your friends to an open weekend this winter. We'll feed you at regular intervals but otherwise your time is your own.

[Energy Work for Everyone](#)

with John Calvi

February 21-23, 2020

Rest deeply from the noise of the work and the cruelty of politics... Be restored for the coming year with the good tools of simple bodywork—energy work and easy clothes-on massage.

Upcoming youth programs:

[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.

[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. 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.

[Pi Day](#) — 4-5th Grade, March 13-15

We will make pies, eat pies, play with numbers, play with friends and talk about what makes each of us feel well rounded. NOTE: at the same time next door is [Pie for Parents](#) — A parents' retreat in Pitt Hall.

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

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.

Retreat: Discovering and Living into my Spiritual Gifts

& Mentoring Program Kick-off

Date: February 8-9, 2020, (6:00 p.m. Sat.-4:00 p.m. Sun.)

(begins with Meeting for Discernment on February 8, 9 a.m.)

Location: [Ithaca Monthly Meeting](#)

[Register here!](#)



Workshop: Giving Vocal Ministry and Lifting my Quaker Voice

Date: Saturday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST

Location: Manasquan Monthly Meeting (NJ)

[Register here!](#)

Virtual Meeting for Worship

Date: 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. 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](#).

Why Color Matters

A 3-Part Online Webinar

February 1, 8, & 15, 2020, at 5-7 p.m. EST.

The Center for the Study of White American Culture (CSWAC)'s next workshop is "[Why Color Matters](#)" — a three-part online webinar that examines racial colorblindness and considers the alternative of color consciousness as a pathway to achieving racial justice and equity.



Some scholarship aid is available to NYYM members and attenders from the Black Concerns Committee. Interested Friends should apply to [Robin Alpern](#).

For more information, visit [CSWAC's website](#), or contact Robin Alpern or Jeff Hitchcock:

Robin Alpern (908) 245-4972, robin.alpern@gmail.com

Jeff Hitchcock (908) 245-4972, contact@euroamerican.org

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, 8:30 a.m.**, at the [Flushing Friends](#) meetinghouse, located at 137-16 Northern Blvd, Flushing, NY 11354. All are welcome.

8:30 a.m.— Breakfast

9:00 a.m.— Prayers & Concerns

9:30 a.m. — 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!

Who is My Neighbor? [Community Development Seminars](#)

There are three remaining seminars:

- Tuesday, January 28, (Wed. Feb. 5 snow date), Manhasset, Community Reformed Church
- Tuesday, March 17, Saratoga Springs, New England Congregational Presbyterian Church
- Tuesday, May 19, Syracuse, University United Methodist Church



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.

Visit [here](#) for a full description and information on how to [register](#). (photo above shows NYYM Quakers who attended this seminar in White Plains on Oct. 22, 2019.)

Second Annual **NY Statewide Ecumenical Advocacy Day** February 12, 2020, in Albany, NY



NEW POLITICS, NEW ACTION, NEW
BUDGET — NEW HOPE FOR ALL OF NEW
YORK

Are you interested in connecting your faith to issues of social justice and building a more equitable society? Join people of faith from across New York State, representatives of the [New York State Council of Churches](#), and other secular and religious partners in Albany on February 12, 2020!

We will begin the day-long event with spiritual grounding, followed by basic advocacy training, workshops on issues including care for creation, immigration, criminal justice reform, and housing justice, and then finally visits to the offices of our elected officials.

The cost of the event, including lunch, refreshments, and materials, is \$30.00. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches at pcook@nyscoc.org or 508.380.8289.

We invite you to come to Powell House the night before at 524 Pitt Hall Rd., Old Chatham, NY 12136 (4:30 p.m. Tues to 8:00 a.m. Wed). The \$75 fee includes overnight accommodations, supper, and breakfast. Visit the Powell

House [website](#) or call 518-794-8811. Christine Ashley, Quaker Field Secretary for the Friends Committee on National Legislation, will speak at Powell House on Tuesday Evening, February 11, and will then will join us at the Advocacy Day on Wednesday.



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, 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.



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](#).

Monthly Peace Vigil in NYC

Considering recent news, it seems a good time to remind people that Friends hold a Vigil for Peace each first Sunday under the arch at Washington Square Park at 1 p.m.

Please consider sharing this announcement to give others the opportunity to join in us in prayer at a dangerous time. Note there are playgrounds adjoining if you want to bring kids.

Opportunities

[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**.

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.



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

February

Feb. 8 (snow date: Feb. 15): *Winter Meeting for Discernment, Ithaca*

Monthly Meeting: Steve Mohlke

March

March 20-22: *ARCH Visitor Training, Stanley, NY:* Callie Janoff

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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