

February 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing well. I'm busy putting the finishing touches on the March issue of *Spark*, titled **Friends Meet on Indigenous Lands** and guest-edited by the Indian Affairs Committee! This is an extended issue and includes sections about NYYM's next two gatherings: [Spring Sessions](#) and [Summer Sessions](#). Spring Sessions [registration](#) is open now and Summer's will open very soon. Stay tuned!

The theme for the May issue of *Spark* is **The Joys and Challenges of Quarterly and Regional Meetings**. Local meetings belong to a quarter or region with other meetings in their area. Have you been able to do things as a region that your meeting couldn't have done on its own? What are the joys of meeting as a region? What are the challenges? What would your ideal regional or quarterly meeting look like? How can your regional meeting be improved?

Please write your thoughts and send them along! Articles for *Spark* should be 400-600 words long, emailed to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). The deadline for the May issue is April 1.

InfoShare, this email newsletter, is sent out in the middle of each month. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of that month. Please do send **news and events** to share with and inspire other Friends. Items will appear in InfoShare, subject to editorial approval, and may also appear on social media or in *Spark*. [Email](#) or use this [form](#) to submit items.

—Sarah Way, Editor

PS: NYYM is on social media! Follow the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

**News & Announcements**

## New AVP Landing Strip

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) has started a new [Landing Strip](#) in Newburgh, NY. A Landing Strip is a group of men and women who meet to offer a welcoming hand to those who are going through the transition back to society after being released from prison. There are also two Landing Strips in Rochester, NY.



## Quaker Worship at Stony Point

Stony Point Center is an inclusive, multi-faith conference center in Stony Point, NY. [Quaker Worship](#) is held there every Thursday evening at 5 p.m. All are welcome! Most Thursdays the meeting will meet in the meditation space but please call ahead (845-786-5674) to verify meeting space, or check with the front desk upon your arrival.



## 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!

## Upcoming Events

### New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5, 2020

Oakwood Friends School  
22 Spackenkill Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY  
12603



**Welcome to the 2020 NYYM Spring Sessions!** Once again, Oakwood Friends School is opening their doors to us so that we may gather and discern the

business of New York Yearly Meeting on their beautiful campus. Spring Sessions begins with a Friday evening discussion on NYYM's 325th anniversary theme: "Embracing Our Past, Envisioning Our Future." On Saturday and Sunday we will conduct business, hold committee meetings, create community, and worship together. Attend for any part of the weekend that you wish. [Registration is open!](#)

**Meals** will be eaten at the Oakwood Friends School cafeteria. A free continental breakfast will also be offered both mornings.



**Youth & children:** A program for teens is being planned with Oakwood Friends students. A children's program is also available. Register early if you have a child or teen who would like to join in.

**Committee and display space:** Requests for committee meeting rooms and or display space should be directed to [Melanie-Claire Mallison](#) by March 20.

**Overnight accommodations:** We've reserved a block of rooms at the nearby [Hampton Inn](#) (\$129 a night—ask for the NYYM Room Block—reserve by March 25). Or you can request hospitality (an overnight stay) at the homes of local Friends; contact [Jean Doneit](#) (845-297-5046).

**Please register by March 25.** [Registration](#) fees are Pay as Led, and help with meal costs is available; see the form for details. Visit [the Spring Sessions 2020 page](#) for more details, including the schedule for the weekend, travel information, and more.

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*Hosted by Sessions Committee, Nine Partners Regional Meeting, and Purchase Quarterly Meeting*



**NYYM Summer Sessions 2020 — Our 325th Year!**

Summer Sessions, the annual week-long gathering of NYYM Friends, is **July 19-25, 2020**, at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center. 2020 is NYYM's 325th anniversary! The theme for the year is **Embracing our Past, Envisioning our Future**. And to make Summer Sessions more accessible to everyone, payment will once again be Pay as Led. Registration will open very soon. For now you can read about [Summer Sessions online](#). Save the date in your calendar and watch for the email announcing the opening of registration!

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## Join the ARCH Network!

ARCH ([Aging Resources Consultation and Help](#)) Visitors are Friends from throughout New York Yearly Meeting who offer practical and spiritual/pastoral care to older people and differently-abled adults. Join in this vibrant ministry!



There are two ways you can train to be an ARCH Visitor this spring:

- **Online:** [ARCH Visitor Remote Training sessions](#) will be held via Zoom video conferencing over the course of 7 weekly sessions, 1.5 hours each, the weeks of **March 15-April 29**. *Training sessions will be scheduled on days and times most convenient for those attending.*
- **In Person:** [ARCH Visitor Training Spring Retreat](#) is **March 20-22** at the home of Jill McLellan near Geneva, NY.

For more information or to register for either training, please click the links above or email [Callie Janoff](#), ARCH Director.

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## [Upcoming Programs for Young Adults](#)

Questions? Email [Marissa Badgley](#), Interim Young Adult Field Secretary.

### **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

Co-facilitated by Gabi Savory-Bailey. [Register here!](#)

### **Virtual Meeting for Worship**

**Date:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EST, March 21

Homily delivered by Martin Glazer. [Join via Zoom.](#)

### **Virtual Q&A w/ Traveling Ministers**

**Date:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, April 15

[Join via Zoom.](#) [Join the guest list.](#)

### **Workshop on Fundamentals of Spiritual Leadership**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18

**Location:** Saranac Lake Monthly Meeting

Co-facilitated by Jens Braun. [Registration is open!](#)

...And there's more to come! Check out the [YAF schedule](#) through June 2020.

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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:*

[Building a Culture of Multi-Age Inclusion](#) with Emily Provance

**February 28-March 1, 2020**

The spiritual principles of Quakerism are timeless and ageless, but our cultural practices often are not. Using a bunch of different hands-on strategies, we'll spend the weekend exploring twelve "culture flips."

[Experimenting with JOY](#) with Ed Seliger

**March 6-8, 2020**

Come experiment with ways of experiencing joy and awe! Join us as we open ourselves to the ministry of wonder, awe, and joy. Join us in seeking, experiencing, and sharing joy in our daily lives.

[Pie For Parents: A Parents' Retreat](#) with Chris DeRoller

**March 13-15, 2020** (same weekend as 4th-5th grade conference)



Remember when you said you would take some time to yourself when you got around to it? That day has come. Make friends, make pies, and make time for yourself and Spirit.

[Opening to the Heart of Worship](#) with Christopher Sammond

March 20-22, 2020

This retreat will focus on practices which can make us more ready to receive that blessed gift of powerful worship which can nurture, heal, and transform us and our lives, while drawing us closer together as a community.

[Creating in the Light](#) with Gabi Savory-Bailey and Anne Pomeroy

March 27-29, 2020

The popular, multi-generational Creativity & Spirituality weekend.

The annual, intergenerational [Spring Work, Messiah Sing, Scavenger Hunt](#) is April 10-12, 2020.

*Upcoming youth programs:*

[Pi Day](#) – 4-5th Grade, March 13-15 (same weekend as parenting retreat)

We will make pies, eat pies, play with numbers, play with friends and talk about what makes each of us feel well rounded.

[Hello! How Are You?](#) – 6-8th grade, March 20-22

Inviting others to share with us is a powerful way of being in the world. Learning how others are doing helps us know how we are doing ourselves. We will practice a variety of ways we might ask “How are you?” and then listen to the experience of others.

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



## How Does God Call Us to Act?

[FWCC Sustainability](#): An Online Conference  
with Friends Worldwide

On Saturday, February 22, 2020

The Friends of FWCC (Friends' World Committee for Consultation) have recognized the need to respond to sustainability. We recognize the need to

gather, to share, and to understand where we are as a family sharing this urgent concern.

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. This 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.

[Read the full details](#), including technical requirements and a link to registration. If you have any questions, please email [sustainability@fwcc.world](mailto:sustainability@fwcc.world).

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

There are **TWO** remaining seminars:

- 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.

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

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## Alternatives to Violence Project ([AVP](#)).

## Upcoming Workshops



[Series of Mini-Workshops](#) at different locations  
in Syracuse, NY

**March 7, 14, 21, 28**

Conflict will always be with us, but we can embrace and transform it... Learn how at one of a series of participatory, interactive mini-Alternatives to Violence Project workshops.

[AVP Basic Workshop](#) at Lehman College, Bronx, NY

**March 13-15, 2020**

Friday, March 13: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 14: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 15: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

This three-day, experiential workshop creates brave spaces that allow us to discover the Transforming Power that each of us has within.



## 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 been announced. Early registration opens on **April 1**, and you can sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

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## Opportunities

### Pastor Sought

Adirondack Friends Meeting of South Glens Fall, NY is seeking a new pastor. For further information please call Anni Stewart, (518) 798-1601.

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## Short-term Room Rentals in NYC

Furnished bedrooms at the [Penington Friends House](#) are sometimes available for sublet during the summer months. Penington Friends House is a lovely Quaker residential community on East 15th Street in Manhattan. 25 permanent residents live there, observing the Quaker values of simplicity and peace. For availability, check [Short-Term Sublet Housing](#), or [contact the manager](#).

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## Camp Caretaker Needed in Maryland

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is seeking applicants to fill the position of Caretaker at Catoctin Quaker Camp in Thurmont, MD. The Caretaker provides a year-round presence at the camp, cares for the facility, and makes it ready for summer camp and the groups who rent the facilities in spring and fall. [View the full job description.](#)

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## Youth Programs Manager Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) is accepting applications to fill the position of Youth Programs Manager. The BYM Youth Programs Manager engages in the ministry of empowering BYM children, youth, and Friendly Adult Presences to safely work, play, learn and worship in a creative spiritual community. The position includes the implementation of weekend Quaker conferences, meetings, and retreats. [Read the complete job description.](#)

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## Farm-to-Table Organic Garden Summer Intern Pendle Hill

[Pendle Hill](#)'s Summer Garden Intern participates in the day-to-day garden tasks and projects, fostering and sustaining a holistic, cost-effective, land-centered food ethic. [Read the full job description.](#)

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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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## OTHER JOB OPENINGS that may be of interest to Friends

[Financial Administrator](#) at the Center for Economic and Social Rights ([CESR](#)).

[Several Positions](#) at [Silver Bay YMCA](#), either for the summer or year-round, part-time or full-time

[Front Desk Associate](#) (part time) at [Stony Point Center](#)

[Director of Administration](#) (full time) at [Stony Point Center](#)

## Staff Travel Calendar

### March

**March 18:** *Plainfield Meeting Community Wing Grand Opening:* Helen Garay Toppins (Associate Secretary)

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

### April

**April 3-5:** *Spring Sessions, Oakwood Friends School:* Callie Janoff, Steve Mohlke (General Secretary), Helen Garay Toppins, Sarah Way (Communications Director)

## 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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