

InfoShare

New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

Volume 13
Editor: [Steven Davison](#)

October 2014

Number 5
Assistant Editor: [Miranda von Salis](#)

[Download a pdf file of InfoShare, October 2014](#)

Fall Sessions—November 14–16, 2014, 15 Rutherford Place, NY NY

New York Quarterly Meeting hosts Fall Sessions this year, with meetings to be held in Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse at 15 Rutherford Place in Manhattan. We gather to nurture the life of the Yearly Meeting and "to see each other's faces," as early Friends were wont to say. There will be a full program for children of all ages, opportunities for Yearly Meeting committees to meet, and, of course, worship. Please join us!

[Register now!](#)
[Fall Sessions information](#)

Quicklinks

- [Notes & Announcements](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [Quaker News](#)
- [Staff Calendar](#)

Contents

Notes & Announcements

- [Send us your news!](#)—for *Spark* and *InfoShare*
- [Write for Spark](#)—see the upcoming themes
- [Young Adult Friends Updates](#)
 - [Message from Gabbrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary](#)
 - [Call for Survey of Young Adult Friends](#)

- [Mini Retreats](#)
- [Host an Earthcare Connector](#)—Seven Friends are traveling with an earthcare ministry
- [Priorities Action Hub](#)—A new page on our website where you, your meeting, or your committee can enter your efforts to implement the newly approved Yearly Meeting Priorities
- [Opportunities for Scholars at Pendle Hill](#)—scholarships available for research and projects in the arts
- [ReleasingMinistry.org](#)—learn about this exciting new support platform for Quakers with leadings and ministries
- [William Penn Quaker Workcamps](#)—opportunities for service through William Penn House in Washington DC
- [NYYM Prayer List](#)—An invitation

Job Opportunities

- [Meetinghouse Caretaker](#)—Rockland Meeting, Blauvelt, NY
- [Administrative Assistant](#)—Ben Lomond Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA

Upcoming Events

- November 21–23, 2014, Powell House—[ARCH Visitor Training II](#)
- March 21–23, 2015, Syracuse NY—[ARCH Visitor Training](#)

Conferences

- October 31–November 2, 2014, Powell House—*[Holding the Meeting, Grounding the Ministry](#)*
- November 6–9, 2014, St. Raphaela Retreat Center, Haverford PA—*[Sink Down to the Seed](#)*
- March 13–15, 2015, Powell House—*[Doing Pastoral Care, It's not Just for Pastors](#)*
- March 2015, Peace Teams, Indonesia—*[Nonviolence, Healing, and Developmental Play](#)*

Quaker News

- [FUM](#)—[Reflections on the FUM Triennial 2014](#), by David Herendeen
- Orchard Park—[Holds Intergenerational Zentangle Workshop](#)
- Oakwood School—[Letter from Peter Baily](#), Head of School
- [Religious Education Collaborative](#)—Pendle Hill gathering leads to an organized religious education effort

Staff Calendars

- [ARCH Coordinators](#)
- [General Secretary](#)

Notes & Announcements

Send us your news!

For November *Spark* and the next *InfoShare* (published in mid-December). The deadline for *Spark* is November 4; for December *InfoShare*, December 1.

Write for *Spark*

November *Spark*'s theme is "Climate Change, Social Change." Deadline is November 4. How would you express our Quaker testimony on earthcare and on climate change in particular? What is the religious, spiritual, biblical, and/or theological foundation for our relation to the earth and its climate? What spiritual/religious experiences have turned you toward earthcare and a concern for the climate? As Friends, how do we effect the kind of social change that is needed in the face of this urgent crisis? What does Spirit-led climate witness look like? We invite Friends to explore this important and timely topic for our next issue. We would like to hear from Friends who participated in the recent People's Climate March in New York City.

January 2015's theme is "NYYM Priorities—Next Steps." How do you envision implementing the Priorities that the gathered body of the Yearly Meeting approved at Summer Sessions 2014? You can refresh your memory about the Priorities by click the following link: [Statement of Leadings and Priorities](#). And visit our [Priorities Action Hub](#), where you can track what others are doing already to implement the Priorities.

March 2015's theme is "Friends and Other Faiths."

Send your submissions to steven@nyym.org.

Young Adult Friends Updates

Message from Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary

Hey everyone,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Climate March! What an inspiring event. Steven Bhardwaj from 15th St. meeting shared the **People's Climate March You Tube Channel**, which has videos featuring some of us as well as others at the march. If you would like to post a video from the march, feel free! If you have pictures from the march, feel free to post on our **facebook page**.

Call for Survey of Young Adult Friends

Two years ago, I conducted a survey of 151 Young Adult Friends (YAF) and parents in NYYM. I am so grateful for every one of those responses, which have helped inform the work of my position, but also Monthly Meetings and the larger Yearly Meeting. We have worked hard to honor and represent the feedback you provided us with.

I am asking for your help again. It is time for us to apply for grants to fund the Young

Adult Field Secretary position, and to plan for the future.

I need between 100-150 responses, by EARLY FEBRUARY. We are looking for people who are in the age range of 18-35-ish, and/or have young families. I know that some of you may have moved away, or "aged out" of this age group. I still want to hear from those who took the first survey, EVEN IF you do not identify with this age group any more. Your responses are still important, and I would love to know how you are, where you are, and what you need NOW.

The purpose of this survey is to help us know who the Young Adults Friends, and parents of young families, are in the Yearly Meeting, and how we can serve you best. Your responses give us very valuable information. The results of the survey also help to inform grants and funders who support this work. I also use the information to share with meetings, Yearly Meeting, NYYM committees and the Young Adults Concerns Committee. The information will be used to create programs that serve Young Adults and families throughout NYYM, as well as increase awareness of the needs, concerns, and wants of these Friends. Most importantly, it is helpful for Friends to hear directly from the Young Adults and families in their midst. I will only share responses to the survey anonymously.

Of course, if you have specific concerns, I can only help you if I know who you are. I look forward to working with you when I return from maternity leave. Thank you for your help and responses.

You can find the survey online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YAFSURVEY2014-15>

Not in this age group, but want to help? Please spread the word, and the link, to anyone in your meeting or region that might fit into this age range/life stage.

Thank you for your voice, and response, I am deeply grateful for each and every response I get.

Gabi

YAF Mini Retreats

This year, in New York Yearly Meeting, we started a new model of retreat/gatherings for YAF. We heard loud and clear the barriers that keep many YAF and families from attending retreats/conferences, and we started trying to eliminate those barriers. They are: time/scheduling, distance, cost, and childcare.

Here's what we came up with so far. We created a retreat model that:

- Is truly only a day, so that it fits with busy schedules. The retreat runs from 9:15 am to 5:00 pm with the possibility of local hospitality or fellowship after the retreat if desired by participants.
- Moves around NYYM so that participants need not travel more than 2 hours from their homes to attend.
- Is a Pay-as-Led system. No one should stay away due to lack of funds. We have a suggested donation of \$15.00 – \$20.00, but Friends are welcome to pay more or less as you are able and willing.
- Provides food. No one needs to prep a potluck dish to come. :)
- Provides childcare, with advanced notice of at least a week.
- Includes fellowship, as well as Spirit-Led work. The theme this year was the practice of Discernment. I plan to look at other Quaker practices and themes in 2015. I will approach the theme from a number of angles and methods, allowing

for the variety of theology and worship tradition that is a part of our Yearly Meeting.

- Does not require much, if anything, from the host meeting, other than space, and a kitchen for meal storage, if possible. Meetings are welcome to help with hospitality, if led.
- Allows for different sized groups, as well as different facilities, and is flexible to meet the space that is available at the host meeting. I have facilitated this new model four times in 2014, each with the focus on the Quaker tool of Discernment. The size of the group ranged from 2–25 participants. Each was successful and meaningful regardless of size.

Here are some comments from participants:

“A deeper sense of where I am on my spiritual journey.”

“Sometimes you need to take a break even when you have a lot to do. Taking time to connect with people who may be celebrating or struggling in the same ways is good for the soul!”

“The YAF Mini Retreat was an all-around great, uplifting, and empowering experience. The ability to fit a retreat into one Saturday was perfect for my busy schedule.”

“Coming into the YAF space and knowing only two other people, I felt completely welcome within an hour. I came away feeling like I was newly part of a community, and returned to meeting on Sunday more comfortable than I had been before.”

“The Mini-Retreat allows attenders to renew one's journey into the exploration of relationships to one other and the light that is God within each of us and in our communities. The vulnerability of mind and spirit that allows the strength of fellowship to form among Friends is at the core of the mini-retreat.”

“There are many ways to practice Quakerism within ourselves, our community and the world. The retreat provided a chance to explore a few of the many skills and practices that we can work on as a group. I also sensed a great calling energy to the adults who attended, I sense a spirit of wanting to explore and do more.”

“The clearness committee experience has shown me a new way to make decisions.”

I HOPE YOU CAN HELP ME! Please let me know if your local meeting would be interested in scheduling and hosting a YAF mini retreat. The goal is to have six mini retreats in NYYM by the end of 2015. If you are interested in scheduling a mini retreat at your meeting, please contact Helen Garay Toppins at office@nyym.org.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS MANY AS I CAN SCHEDULED BY mid-November so that we can publicize effectively. I am looking especially in Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting, Butternuts Quarterly Meeting, Northeastern Quarterly Meeting, Nine Partners, and Purchase Quarterly Meetings. I am also looking for Friends who might co-facilitate with me, or serve as elders or prayerful presences, remembering that I will be travelling with a young baby. Please spread this email and invitation to as many folks as you are led.

Thank you all for your support, and interest!

Gabi

Note: I will be taking maternity leave from mid-October 2014 to early February 2015.

Host An Earthcare Connector

Seven Earthcare Working Group "Connectors" are traveling to meetings in New York Yearly Meeting, sharing their leadings to respond to the call for climate justice, and inviting Friends to consider how *they* might live more lightly on the Earth. The Connectors are Pamela Boyce Simms (Hudson Meeting), Patricia Chernoff (Morningside Meeting), Margaret McCasland (Ithaca Meeting), Liseli Haines (Mohawk Valley Meeting), Janet Sonderberg (Fifteenth Street Meeting), Joseph Olejak (Old Chatham Meeting), and Robert (Sunfire) Kazmayer (Easton Meeting). Meetings interested in hosting an Earthcare discussion with these traveling friends, should contact the Earthcare Working Group at: earthcarenyym@gmail.com.

Guiding Principles that ground the ministry of the Earthcare Connectors are found in the [Eco-Spirituality and Action Minute](#) (July 2007). In this minute NYYM asked each meeting and each Quaker to consider:

1. What are God and the Earth asking of our meeting at this point in time?
2. How do we respond in ways appropriate to our meeting, our community, and the wider world?
3. How does this response build on previous or ongoing Earthcare work our meeting has already done?
4. What further specific changes are we willing to make in our spiritual practice, in our meetings, and in our individual lives to reflect a strong witness for the Earth?

Connector Friends also focus on Advice 17 and Query 16 (July 2012), which call on us to "join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share one planet."

Priorities Action Hub

Committees, meetings, staff, and individuals around the Yearly Meeting have begun to respond to the Priorities that we approved at Summer Sessions 2014. Now we have a web page that we call the [Priorities Action Hub](#) that serves as a hub for gathering in one place all our efforts to implement the Priorities. The idea is to see what others are doing and to celebrate our collective progress.

We invite you as an individual, or on behalf of your meeting or your committee, to add your story to those we have already gathered. Just click the link below ("Add Your Actions Here") and fill out the short and easy form on the page that opens. Browse the list to see what other groups are doing and come back now and then to see how this movement is growing.

- [Add Your Actions Here](#)—just click the link and fill out the simple, easy form.
- [View the entries](#) so far.
- Click the following to view the [approved Statement of Leadings and Priorities](#).

Opportunities for Scholars at Pendle Hill

Several endowed scholarship funds are available to people with specific qualifications and require the recipient to fulfill certain obligations during their tenure here.

[Henry J. Cadbury Scholarship](#)—For a specific project of significance to the Religious Society of Friends in the areas of Quaker faith, practice, and history.

[Kenneth L. Carroll Scholarship for Biblical and Quaker Studies](#)—For scholars with a serious interest in the study of the Bible and Quaker faith and practice.

[Minnie Jane Arts Scholarship](#)—For a Quaker artist pursuing a self-directed creative project in the fine arts, crafts, performing arts, creative writing, music composition, or other artistic pursuit that is compatible with Pendle Hill's physical facilities.

Other scholarships are available and can be discussed as part of the admissions process for the [Young Adult Friends Conference](#) (contact [Emily Higgs](#) at 610-566-4507, ext. 161), the [Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness](#) program (contact [Steve Chase](#) at 610-566-4507, ext. 123), or the [Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow Conference](#) (contact [John Meyer](#) at 610-566-4507, ext. 129).

ReleasingMinistry.org

[ReleasingMinistry.org](#) is an online tool under development by New York Yearly Meeting Friend Vonn New and Friend Viv Hawkins. Its goal is to help Friends live more fully into their leadings and ministry by helping to solve some practical problems, especially money and marketing. See more at: [releasingministry.org](#) or click the following link to download a pdf file of [Releasing Ministry's flier](#).

William Penn Quaker Workcamps

William Penn House in Washington DC organizes work camps for Friends of all ages in Washington and elsewhere, including in Lakota country in South Dakota. Click the following link to visit [William Penn Quaker Workcamps](#). Click the following to view their Fall 2014 newsletter [Penn Notes](#), which has a full description of the program.

NYYM Prayer List

If you would like Friends in the Yearly Meeting to pray for you or someone you know, or if you would like to join the Prayer List as one of the pray-ers, or if you would like to learn more about the List, please contact [John Edminster](#), the List's coordinator. Remember that if you want to offer someone for prayer, make sure you ask them first whether it's okay to do that.

[Back to top](#)

Job Opportunities

Meetinghouse Caretaker, Rockland Meeting in Blauvelt, NY

Rockland Monthly Meeting, in Blauvelt, NY (NW suburb of NYC) is looking for a resident caretaker. The rent is \$850, with just a few responsibilities. The caretaker would also have the option of being paid to clean the Meetinghouse if s/he is capable and so chooses. The apartment space consists of two recently refurbished rooms: a bedroom and a sitting room that includes cabinets and your own full-sized refrigerator. A full, modern kitchen and two bathrooms are not immediately connected to the apartment, and are shared with the Meeting. The surroundings are woodland/residential, very quiet; most people would want a car in this situation. Three evenings a week, other organizations hold meetings in part of the Meetinghouse; we also shelter a homeless contingent twelve nights a year.

Please contact Alice Coulombe at aa.lleenn@verizon.net or Alice and Lou Coulombe at 845-638-1864.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center and *Western Friend* Seek Admin Assistant

Email application to: [mail\[at\]quakercenter.org](mailto:mail[at]quakercenter.org)

Ben Lomond Quaker Center and *Western Friend* are looking for a 3/4-time **Administrative Assistant** who will live and work at Quaker Center. You can find a complete description of the position at quakercenter.org.

We seek to hire an energetic Friend who is all fired up to help rekindle Quakerism in the West, someone who wants to support our two organizations with online presence and other work behind the scenes. Ideally, this Friend would serve in this position for two or three years.

We are asking candidates to send us a resume along with a cover letter that responds to these queries:

- What is the nature of your calling to serve the Religious Society of Friends?
- What particularly interests you about serving Ben Lomond Quaker Center and *Western Friend*?
- What would you hope to learn by serving in this role?

Feel free to [contact us](#) with any questions you have about the position.

In the Light,
Kathy Runyan
Bob Runyan
Mary Klein

[Back to top](#)

Upcoming Events

ARCH Offerings for Local Meetings

ARCH Visitor Training II, November 21 – 23, 2014, Powell House

This is a new offering for the current 135 ARCH Visitors to spend the weekend together considering the spirituality of our work; to consider how we best integrate into our meetings; to consider how we serve the whole meeting—all ages; to consider how we best serve the hard of hearing, the persons with dementia, along with the 90-year-old activists who are pushing hard to the end; then, of course, consider the 17th century Quaker model of holding death as life's most sacred journey. It will be an enriching, spirited time!

ARCH Visitor Training, March 21 – 23, 2015, Syracuse: Christ the King Retreat House

The first day of Spring will give us an opportunity to orient another 25 or so persons to aging resources and the art of listening within our local meetings. This is a FREE training sponsored by Friends Foundation for the Aging and under the guidance of the NYYM Committee on Aging Concerns.

Conferences

Holding the Meeting, Grounding the Ministry

October 31 – November 2, 2014

Facilitators: Anne Pomeroy & Kathy Slattery

[Register here for this conference.](#)

[Click here](#) to view a full description of this conference.

Register by Oct. 15th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters. After October 15th: \$240/\$120/\$60.

Children's Program and Childcare with 3 weeks notice.

Sink Down to the Seed: A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends

Nov. 6 – 9, 2014

St. Raphaela Retreat Center, Haverford, PA

[Register here](#) for *Sink Down to the Seed*.

Give over thine own willing . . . and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart. (Issac Pennington)

Friends encourage us to take a time of retirement daily so as to settle and to listen for the voice of the Inward Teacher. Many of us sense the need for a more extended time apart—to regroup, to refresh, to listen, to remember the sacred ground under our feet.

The School of the Spirit Ministry invites you to *A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends*, for such an opportunity at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford, PA, November 6 – 9, 2014. [Go online](#) for more details and to register. Our flexible fees make this retreat affordable for everyone.

"The retreat was personally restorative and it provided opportunity for me to see through so much static from my life."

"The retreat was a wonderful experience."

Questions?

Call (919) 929-2339

Email: info@schoolofthespirit.org

Website: schoolofthespirit.org

Doing Pastoral Care, It's not Just for Pastors

March 13 – 15, 2015

Facilitators: Ruth Ann Bradley, Rachel V. Ruth, and Ann Davidson

[Register here for this conference.](#)

[Click here](#) to view a full description of this conference.

Register by Feb. 27th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters.
After February 27th: \$240/\$120/\$60.

In an effort to encourage greater participation, Ann will offer special pricing when Meetings can send more than one person:

1 adult = \$220

2 adults = \$210 each

3 adults = \$200 each

4 adults = \$175 each

5 adults = \$150 each

To register, call, e-mail or write POWELL HOUSE, 518-794-8811,
www.powellhouse.org, or info@powellhouse.org.

International Workshop on Nonviolence, Healing, and Developmental Play

Presented by Peace Place in Pati, Central Java, Indonesia

Nadine Hoover will facilitate with Nanik, Petrus and Local Apprentices
March 2015

The workshop opens with two days of Alternatives to Violence Project Basic activities on nonviolence and transforming power, followed by two days of activities for trauma

resiliency and recovery, and closes with two days of play activities for young children, which for adults reconstitute developmental capacities eroded by primary and secondary trauma.

Participants may be teens or adults, Indonesian and international, and include parents, peace workers, local youth workers, preschool teachers, and Ministry of Education staff. A seventh day, post-workshop session will give preschool teachers and trainers additional technical experience in bookmaking and/or block building. Participants are invited to come two days early to settle in and visit before the workshop begins.

People are invited to stay at Peace Place with Nadine Hoover in March 2015 while preparing for the workshop or any other time to volunteer for workshops or in the preschool, after-school, and parenting programs both at Peace Place and in local schools, including local Islamic study centers.

For more details, see fpt-awp.org.

Register for the Workshop with
Nanik: nanik.tobesmart@yahoo.com; or
Nadine: Indonesia@FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

Anyone who would like to travel with Nadine Hoover in April, should contact Indonesia@FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

[Back to top](#)

Quaker News

Intergenerational Introduction to Zentangle Workshop, October 5, 2014 at Orchard Park Friends Meeting

Orchard Park Friends Meeting (OPFM) arranged an intergenerational workshop on the basics of Zentangle on Sunday, October 5. We sought out a certified Zentangle teacher to assure that we would learn the process of tangling and not just the mechanics. Chris Titus of Wyoming, NY was recommended by the Zentangle teachers who facilitated the 5-morning Zentangle workshop at this summer's FGC Gathering.

Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Tangling requires no experience or talent in drawing. It's a process of using repeated patterns to fill in a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" piece of high-quality heavy paper, similar to the paper used for watercolor painting.

The process itself is the most important part. As the tangler repeats forms, shapes or patterns, one stroke at a time, one's focus is sharpened. Proceeding in this way can still

the mind in a way that is meditative.

Our workshop was filled to capacity—12 persons, aged 12 to 70+. We all were so engaged with the process that we went overtime—almost 2 1/2 hours—and forgot to take any pictures as we worked! Towards the end, we laid out the “tiles” that each of us had completed. Each one was very individual, though we had followed the same directions. Put together side-by-side, they looked like an intriguing quilt!

Each person took home their own little kit for making more tiles on their own. The teens that participated will have more opportunities for exploring Zentangle during the sessions of the Teen Photography Group at OPFM, which meets once a month through the school year. All of us were enthusiastic about doing more tangling and seeing where it leads us!

Kathy Slattery

A Letter from Peter Baily, Head of School at Oakwood Friends School

September, 2014

Dear Members of the Oakwood Friends School Community,

With a sense of profound gratitude and optimism, I write to let you know that I plan to conclude my tenure as Head of Oakwood Friends School at the end of this academic year, June 30, 2015.

In the fifteen years that I will have spent at Oakwood when next June arrives, I have been privileged to work with curious, kind, engaging and witty students, utterly dedicated and skilled colleagues, and a Board of Managers that has been unfailingly wise, supportive, and hard-working. Our alumni around the country and around the world have confirmed for me again and again the life-changing power that Oakwood has had, generation after generation. In the passage of these years, we have admitted hundreds of new students, sent hundreds of graduates off to college and to the wider world, and our community has been blessed at every turn by the rich diversity that our students and their families have brought to us. Our loyal alumni, parents, and friends have contributed significant resources to the annual operating budget, to fund campus enhancements, and to support major renovation projects. New York Yearly Meeting has provided a tangible link to our Quaker heritage and our spiritual core. Our students and faculty have distinguished themselves in extraordinary ways, in the arts, on the athletic field, and in the classroom and laboratory. Their commitment to serve others is a part of the fabric of their lives. We have celebrated faculty weddings and we have welcomed thirty-five faculty babies into our community. We have experienced profound moments of grief together, and I will always be grateful that we were together in Oakwood’s meeting room, in extended worship, as the events of 9/11 tragically unfolded. Just as we have supported one another in times of sadness, we have felt times of unfettered joy, and we have laughed together, a lot.

These fifteen years have included milestones in my personal life as well. I celebrated my 50th and 60th birthdays at Oakwood. My father celebrated his 80th, and he will soon celebrate his 90th. My niece and nephew were born during my tenure here, and it has

been a great pleasure of my life to watch them grow. I joined Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting and committees of the Yearly Meeting. I've made friendships at Oakwood —among faculty, parents, alumni, and Board members—that I know will continue for years to come. Now I find myself called to new work in the wider realm of independent education. Next summer, I will move to Baltimore to take up the position of executive director of AIMS MD DC, the association of independent schools of Maryland and Washington, DC. AIMS serves 120 schools in that region and provides professional development, advocacy, and accreditation services, much as NYSAIS does here in New York State.

I used the word “optimism” in the first sentence of this letter. Oakwood is poised to move forward in exciting ways, this year and into the future. We have completed the Main Building renovation, and then we will move on to the creation of a new music space and lobby in Lane Auditorium. These projects will affect every student and faculty member in the school, and they will transform our arts program. In the months ahead, I will relish each milestone and ceremony and rite of passage in this final year of my tenure at Oakwood. And I stand ready to support our dedicated and capable Board of Managers as it undertakes the important and strategic work of leadership transition.

There will be many opportunities for me to express my thanks to this extraordinary community as we move through the year together. Oakwood has become a part of me, just as it is for our students, faculty, parents, Board members, and alumni, and I will always reflect with happiness and reverence on the place that it holds in my heart.

Sincerely,
Peter F. Baily
Head of School

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Is Created

On August 17 and 18, 2014, thirty-three Friends gathered at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA to envision the future of religious education among Friends. We left feeling exhilarated, believing that way had opened for a collective effort in Quaker religious education that reaches across the current yearly meeting, organizational, and geographic boundaries. “Elegant in its simplicity, the meeting planted a thousand seeds,” is how one Friend described the gathering.

The gathered group confirmed these major underpinnings:

- Religious education for Friends is about taking people to their Inner Teacher.
- Each Quaker Meeting grows in its own way.
- Whatever we do must be theologically and geographically inclusive.
- Meetings need families, and families need religious education.
- Religious education is for children of all ages.
- From infant to elder, all of us are teachers, and all of us are learners.

The way this collaboration came about was amazing. Last spring, four Friends were led to expand their discussions on religious education resources and networking by inviting others from across the country to conduct Listening Circles focused on religious

education joys and challenges. In faith, they reserved space at Pendle Hill to gather a first meeting of an emerging Collaborative. By August, 33 Friends from Texas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, South Dakota, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC responded to the call to gather. Many more Friends added their voices from the Listening Circles. At Pendle Hill a steering group for the Collaborative was formed.

Our intentions going forward:

- Continue to build an international online community of practice using a contact list that has grown to almost 100 names and represents 15 yearly meetings and three countries.
- Create an on-line repository of Quaker curricula and teaching/learning resources that could be freely available to everyone.
- Establish a fluid structure that would allow us to raise money to pay for a website.
- Support the set-up of small, virtual working groups around religious education topics.
- Gather the RE community of practice together again in 2015.
- Offer an RE Institute in the USA within the next four years.

Interested in joining us or learning more about what is available for those in Quaker Religious Education and the work of the Quaker RE Collaborative? Contact:

quakers4re@googlegroups.com

Beth Collea, Wellesley Meeting, NEYM

Marsha Holliday, Washington Friends Meeting, BYM

Melinda Wenner Bradley, West Chester Friends Meeting, PhYM

Liz Yeats, Austin Friends Meeting, SCYM

[Back to top](#)

Staff Travel Calendars

Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) Activities

**Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, & Barbara Spring, ARCH
Coordinators
Autumn, 2014**

October 25 – Anita Paul leads *ARCH Visitor Enrichment Day*, New Paltz Meeting.

November 7 – Barbara Spring in Buffalo.

November 8 – Barbara Spring visits Auburn Prison Worship Group

November 14–16 – Barbara Spring, Anita Paul, and Callie Janoff at Fall Sessions, Fifteenth Street Meeting: *Considering ARCH in the Context of the NYYM Priorities*. Open forum with ARCH staff and the Committee on Aging Concerns during the second committee time on Saturday, November 15.

November 21–23 – *ARCH Visitor Training II*. Additional training for ARCH Visitors at Powell House by Barbara Spring, Anita Paul, and Callie Janoff.

December 5–6 – Barbara Spring, Anita Paul, and Callie Janoff at Friends House Retirement Community, Sandy Springs MD.

Christopher Sammond, General Secretary

October

- 5 Visit Old Chatham Meeting, Old Chatham, NY
- 8–11 Attend FUM General Board Meeting,
clerk North American Ministries Meeting, Richmond, IN
- 21–23 Co-facilitate NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Weekapaug, RI
- 25 Participate in Budget Saturday, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, NY

November

- 15–16 Participate in Fall Sessions, 15th Street Meetinghouse, New York, NY
- 22 Visit Otisville Prison Worship Group, Otisville, NY
- 22 Attend Purchase Meeting Fall Harvest Dinner, Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase
- 23 Visit Montclair Meeting, Speak to the work of the Yearly Meeting, Montclair, NJ

December

- 5–7 Attend Anti-racism Workshop, New York, NY
- 12 Visit Cayuga Prison Worship Group, Moravia, NY

[Back to contents](#)