

InfoShare

New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

Volume 15
Editor: [Steven Davison](#)

April 2016

Number 2

Welcome to April 2016 *InfoShare*!

[Download a pdf file of *InfoShare*, April 2016](#)

Job opening: NYYM Communications Director

Click the following to view [a short notice](#) or [the full job description](#).

Introducing our new Children & Youth Field Secretary—Melinda Wenner Bradley

Read a [letter introducing Melinda](#) and describing our Project Partners initiative for local meetings and their families.

Spring Sessions 2016

Visit our [Spring Sessions page](#) and find out what happened.

Write for *Spark*!

May theme: *Conversations on Racism*. Timed to follow our participation in the White Privilege Conference to be held April 15–17 in Philadelphia, we invite your thoughts on Friends and racism. Send submissions to [Steven Davison](#), *Spark* editor. Deadline: April 25. This issue will also have information and registration for Summer Sessions 2016.

Contents

Notes & Announcements

- [Replica solitary confinement cell](#)
- [Christian History Magazine](#) dedicates an issue to Quakers
- [Traveling Ministry Corps](#)—FWCC initiative
- [Add your story](#) to AFSC's Peace Works.
- [Faith and Practice](#)—new edition now online
- [One God in Three Faiths](#)—Call for papers

Job Opportunities

- [Communications Director](#), New York Yearly Meeting
- [Full-time pastor](#), Adirondack Meeting
- [Jobs with FUM](#)

Upcoming Events

May 4	Quakers in Business gathering	Quaker House, NY, NY
May 8	Celebrate Ann Davidson's 22 Years at Powell House	Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
June 12–13	Quaker RE Collaborative (QREC) Annual Meeting	Richmond, IN
June 17–19	Quaker Party	New York City
July 7–10	USFWI/QMI (United Society of Friends Women International and Quaker Men International) Triennial	Cedar Rapids, IA
March 2017	FWCC Section of the Americas gathering	Pittsburgh, PA
June 28–July 2	Quaker Spring: Experiencing the Inward Christ Together	Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH
July 2–8, 2017	FGC Gathering 2017	Niagara Falls, NY

Conferences

April 22–24	Playing in the Light	Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
May 12–15	Getting Our Words Out There: Publishing in the Digital Age	May 12–15, 2016, Quaker Hill Conference Center
May 20–22	From Seed to Flower (a spiritual nurture retreat)	Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
May 27–30	Friends Annual Conference on Religion and Psychology	Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA
September 15–18	Quakers in Pastoral Care & Counseling	Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN

Quaker News

- [Extended Worship](#) in Farmington-Scipio Region

Staff Calendars

- [ARCH Staff](#)—Martha Gurvich, Local Coordinator, Purchase; Callie Janoff, ARCH Director; Anita Paul, ARCH Specialist
- [General Secretary](#)—Christopher Sammond
- [Associate Secretary](#)—Helen Garay Toppins

Notes & Announcements

Replica Solitary Confinement Cell

New York Yearly Meeting now has a replica solitary confinement cell available for events and exhibitions.

For 23 hours a day, for months, years, even decades, more than 80,000 adults and youth are held in solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention centers. But as communities of faith we can take action to expose this torture.

Friends are encouraged to bring the replica solitary confinement cell to your monthly meeting, quarterly or regional meeting and combine the experience of witnessing the 9' x 6' space with a screening of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture Documentary (NRCAT) documentary [Breaking Down the Box](#). Speakers who have been directly affected by solitary confinement are available for panel discussions. You can create a powerful event to build awareness and mobilize Friends to take action.

The cell is constructed out of ten 7' x 3' plexi-glass and wooden panels. It is lightweight and easy to construct. At this time it is stored at Wilton Monthly Meeting and ready to go on tour!

Contact your NYYM NRCAT Representative Judy Meikle to discuss your requirements:
jubilantjudy@mac.com.

Christian History Magazine dedicates issue to Friends

The Surprising Quakers, Heralds of Peace in a World of Conflict

[View the issue.](#)

[View a digest with links](#) of this issue on our website.

Issue 117 of *Christian History Magazine* is dedicated to Friends and it's really quite good and thorough. It includes several general historical pieces and biographies of Fox, Fell, and others; a Quaker glossary; a survey of theology; a timeline; pieces on our antislavery efforts, African missions, Friends and 19th century social issues, Penn and Pennsylvania; and a list of resources.

Traveling Ministry Corps

Deadline to apply: June 30, 2016

[Learn more and download the registration form.](#)

In the 21st century, the traveling ministry is an important way to realize our vision of a thriving and integrated network of Friends woven together in transformative faith. Our goal is still to further draw the strands of Quakerism in the Americas together into the rich tapestry that is the Religious Society of Friends. In 2016, the Section of the Americas is organizing a small volunteer corps of Friends to send as traveling ministers throughout the Section, crossing Yearly Meeting lines and other divisions among Friends.

We will accept applications from Friends who express concerns that are deeply rooted in the Spirit, and who can transcend differences and division to seek broader unity in the Light. FWCC will provide training, support, and accountability for those Friends who are chosen to travel in this ministry. Funding will be available to support the travel expenses of the members of the travelling ministry corps.

If you would like to share your ministry or to host a visitor at your local meeting or church, please visit our website for more information and to download the application forms. The first round of applications is due June 30, 2016.

Peace Works: Century of Action

Add Your Story to AFSC's Peace Works

[Peace Works](#) is a new website for sharing stories about AFSC from both the past and present. People who have connected with AFSC in any way—as staff, volunteers, participants, or donors—are encouraged to tell a story about your experience. We hope this helps reconnect you with friends and colleagues—and with AFSC.

Faith and Practice—new edition now online

[New edition online](#): The latest edition of *Faith and Practice* has been published on our website.

One God in Three Faiths—A call for papers for a conference

Exploring the Shared Values in the Abrahamic Religious Traditions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

A conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.

Conference: November 3, 2016, New York, NY

[Conference website](#)

[Guidelines for submitting a paper.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Job Opportunities

Communications Director, New York Yearly Meeting

New York Yearly Meeting seeks a Communications Director. This is a 0.8 FTE position beginning July 1, 2016. Depending on availability, this position may be paired with a similar position with New York Quarter at 0.2 FTE. The position is based in NYYM's Manhattan office, working in the office at least two and three days a week in alternation and one and two days a week from home.

The Communications Director proactively develops and manages the yearly meeting's communications, both internal and external. This includes designing, writing, and/or editing its publications; managing the website, social media, and press relations; coordinating a volunteer network; and working with the Communications Committee.

[View an invitation to apply and a full job description](#)

Full-time pastor, Adirondack Meeting

Adirondack Friends Meeting (gathered in 1767) is seeking a full-time pastor. Our programmed meeting is open and affirming, and includes waiting worship as well as a pastoral message. We are a small faith community with an enduring commitment to our Quaker heritage and to all in our Meeting. Our Meetinghouse and adjacent parsonage are nestled in the southern Adirondacks of upstate New York.

Please submit your letter of interest and resume to:

Ministry and Council/Search Committee
Adirondack Friends Meeting
27 Saratoga Avenue
South Glens Falls, NY 12803
adirondackfriendsmeeting@gmail.com

Jobs with Friends United Meeting

Friends United Meeting is looking for a Director of Belize Friends Ministires and a Belize Friends Pastoral Minister, and a Programme Officer to join the staf of the Africa Ministries Office in Kisumu, Kenya. Click the following to [see job descriptions](#).

[Back to top](#)

Upcoming Events

Quakers in Business gathering

May 4, 2016 • QUNO Quaker House, New York, NY

[Register here.](#)

Early Quakers innovated new practices in their businesses as a way to live out their faith. Come meet other Quakers who are interested in business, eat good food and hear Earlham School of Religion graduate and business person Karen Tibbals present the results of her research into the early Quaker advices about trade. Hint: Its not about one price retailing.

Where: Quaker House, 248 E. 48th St., Manhattan.

When: 6:30–9:00 pm.

Cost: \$30.

Celebrate Ann Davidson's 22 Years of Hospitality and Spirit at Powell House

Saturday, May 7

2:00 - 4:00pm Greetings in Pitt Hall

4:00-5:30pm Singing with Ann

6:00pm	Supper
7:30pm	Ann's After Dinner Roast
Sunday, May 8	
8:00am	Breakfast
9:15 am	Open Worship, Messages out of the silence
12:00 noon	Lunch



Ann Davidson

Your presence is important, so do not stay away for lack of time or money. All guests will be given a gift of time (leftover from the Dr. Who conference in the youth center). We have both buildings available for overnight guests, but recommend you register early if you have accessibility needs.

If you can help to cover the cost of the gathering: Supper - \$15; overnight with all 3 meals - \$60.

Please RSVP on Powell House website www.powellhouse.org, or to sharon@powellhouse.org or 518-794-8811 ext. 10.

If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to send your written thoughts, memories, or poems. Please send them to chrisandmike@powellhouse.org. We will collect them and present them to Ann. Let us know if you would like them read out loud at the gathering.

In lieu of gifts, we suggest donating to a "moving fund" for Ann to help with her costs of relocation.

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative—Annual Meeting

June 10–12, 2016 • Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN

[Download the flyer.](#)

[Download the registration form.](#)

[Visit the QREC website.](#)



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Instilling Quaker Identity through Religious Education

The weekend will include worship, plenaries, workshops, interest circles, displays, fellowship & celebration.

We plan a children's program and all age activities. Friends can attend the whole collaborative or just the Saturday special program. We have limited scholarship to support the attendance of families and younger adults. Please register early to secure funding.

Join our growing community of practice as we:

- Think together beyond traditional forms and structures for religious education in our meetings and churches;
- Share ways to welcome and enfold families;
- Continue our ongoing collaborative work on child safety, undoing racism, all age RE and more;
- Preview RE resources;
- Explore new ways to collaborate and network throughout the year.

Cost: from \$230.

Quaker Party

June 17–19, 2016 • Fifteenth Street Meeting and New York Quarter

[Download a flyer](#)

[Registration and housing page](#)

[Party's web page on nyym.org](#)

[Donate to the Party](#)

The Young Adult Concerns Committee invites YOU to join us for a weekend of joyful connection and deepening of spiritual relationships with Friends old and new. The purpose of this event is to pull together Young Adult Friends (YAF) who graduated High School in 1990 and later, into a weekend long celebration at 15th Street Meeting in New York City. Organizers are reaching out to those YAF who grew up in NY Yearly Meeting, Powell House, Junior Yearly Meeting, or local meetings, and have drifted away. They also are reaching out to our neighbor YAF in New England YM, Philadelphia YM and Baltimore YM. Visit the event's [web page](#) for more information.

USFWI / QMI Triennial

**United Friends Women International & Quaker Men International
July 7–10, 2016 • Marriott Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

[Download the flyer.](#)

[Download the registration form.](#)

[Visit the website](#) for information and registration.

Friends World Committee for Consultation–Section of the Americas to gather in Pittsburgh in March 2017

March 23–26, 2017 • Gilmory Catholic Retreat Center • Pittsburgh, PA

Friends from all over the Section of the Americas will gather together in business, fellowship, and worship.
SAVE THE DATE!

Quaker Spring: *Experiencing the Inward Christ Together*

June 28–July 2 • Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH

[Download a flyer.](#)

Are you longing for more quiet opportunities to worship & share with other Friends? Would you enjoy taking part in a radically unprogrammed retreat with Friends from a variety of theological backgrounds for a week or just a few days? Have you heard of Quaker Spring?

Our program will be shaped by God's leading as the week unfolds. Each day will include Bible study, worship, quiet time, evening explorations, and fellowship. We are welcoming to Friends of all Branches.

Fees: by freewill offering (guideline of roughly \$40-60/adult/day for dorm room & meals).

Deadline to register for the children's program: June 1st.

More information & registration: www.quakerspring.org. Or contact the planning group at quakerspring@gmail.com (or c/o Deborah Haines, 2794 Fort Scott Drive, Arlington VA 22202 703-706-8176.)

FGC Gathering 2017 in Niagara Falls!

July 2–8, 2017 • Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY

Co-hosted by Canadian Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting. This is a time of worship, fellowship, sharing, learning, spiritual growth, and more. **SAVE THE DATE!**

[Back to top](#)

Conferences

Playing in the Light—A Faith & Play Conference

April 22–24, 2016 • Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

Faith & Play is a Montessori-inspired resource that helps children find words and images for expressing the experiences of holy mystery and wonder in their lives. Using stories, tools, and methods from the very successful Godly Play®, Faith & Play was created by Quakers to add stories of Quaker faith, practice, and witness to experiences with the core Bible stories in Godly Play. Come to this workshop and learn and practice skills to help children explore the existential limits of their lives through wonder, play, and core stories scripted and tested to work well with multiage groups of children. An experienced trainer will model the stories, and you will have opportunities to practice them with your peers. Facilitated by Melinda Wenner Bradley, NYYM Children & Youth Field Secretary.

Getting Our Words Out There: Publishing in the Digital Age

May 12–15, 2016 • Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN
Annual QUIP Conference (Quakers United in Publishing)

[Download a flyer](#)

[Download a registration form](#)

Are you a “publisher of Truth”? Do you use the word to promote the Quaker message? Are you a writer, a publisher, an editor, a translator, or a bookseller? Do you blog, produce videos, write songs, create websites, or manage social media for Friends? At QUIP we’re all united in sharing the Quaker message with the world. Join us for worship, fellowship, education and mutual support.

From Seed to Flower—A *Tending the Garden* Spiritual Nurture Retreat on Leadings

May 20–22, 2016 • Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

[Register and get more information](#) from the Powell House website.

How are you being led, right now, and how are you responding to that leading? Are you unsure as to whether you are led, and how to know? It is no small task to distinguish leadings from our thoughts and emotions, whether pertaining to our actions in the world or to our inner spiritual condition. Yet central to our experience as Friends is that there is that of God in each of us, and if we learn to listen to that spark of the Divine, we will be led and guided deeper and deeper into the truth of our being.

Facilitator: Christopher Sammond.

Cost: \$230.

Annual Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology

May 27–30, 2016 • Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA

Registration deadline: April 27.

[Register here.](#)

[Visit the FCRP website.](#)

Plenary speaker: Joanna Macy—*Reconnecting Self, Soul and Earth: Bearing Witness to our Global Moment*

In four plenaries, Joanna will share insights, poetry, stories, spiritual teachings, and scientific theory to enliven our understanding of the hidden promise in the planetary crisis. Participants also choose from among 14 interest groups that meet over the weekend to process the plenaries in small groups and share in specific modalities. There is worship, worship sharing, and social activities, as well, that build this community among the wider circle of Friends.

Since 1943, the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology has gathered annually on Memorial Day Weekend to provide a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner lives.

FCRP is one of the oldest conferences in the U.S. dedicated to individual spiritual exploration with a focus on in-depth psychology, specifically Jungian psychology. For the better part of the last half-century our Conference was held at Haverford College on Memorial Day weekend. It now takes place in beautiful central Pennsylvania on the campus of Lebanon Valley College.

We also have a smaller Conference in the Washington area (WFCRP) held near the end of February.

As part of a spiritual community, we seek:

- To discover our own deepest processes & nourish them.
- To uncover the ways in which our new insights can help us return to the everyday world more focused and grounded in our spiritual reality.
- To explore the dynamics of Quaker principles in group life and to apply them to our daily living.

We warmly welcome new members, whether Quaker or not, to come for one or both Conferences or choose to become part of our ever-evolving community and network. Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, is near Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Quakers in Pastoral Care & Counseling Conference

Centered in Wholeness: Body & Spirit

Thursday, September 15 – 18, 2016 • Quaker Hill Conferene Center, Richmond, IN

In this, our 26th annual gathering, Stephanie Ford, former professor of Christian spirituality at the Earlham School of Religion, will lead us in a weekend of learning, reconnecting, and restoration.

After teaching Christian spirituality for a decade at ESR, Stephanie Ford returned to her home state of North Carolina, and in 2011 joined the staff of Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. There, she now serves as Minister of Christian Formation, which includes Christian education, intergenerational offerings, retreat and small group leadership, and preaching. Stephanie also teaches with the Friends of Christ School (a local ecumenical group), as well as with the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation.

[Back to top](#)

Quaker News

Extended Worship in Farmington-Scipio Region

Eleven Friends participated in the regional extended meeting for worship hosted by Rochester Meeting on Saturday, February 27th. This was the third in the ongoing program under the care of the Regional Ministry & Counsel. These Friends came from five meetings: Buffalo, Central Finger Lakes, Farmington, Ithaca, and Rochester. Heather Cook (Central Finger Lakes, Regional Ministry & Counsel) served as clerk.

More Friends would have participated but decided to go instead to the Yearly Meeting's meeting for discernment which took place at the same time on Long Island. We have consistently had 10-11 participants at the extended meetings for worship.

Upon entering the worship room, Friends picked up both a copy of the flyer that included the day's schedule, and a half-page handout of information intended to help Friends know what to expect.

After opening comments at 9:30, we did a gathering round of introductions, giving our name and Meeting, where we traveled from to be there, and something for which we were grateful. We heard who expected to leave before the end of the scheduled day.

The first vocal ministry was given after about an hour and a quarter as song.

Shortly after 12:30 we shifted carefully to sharing as led from our experience in the morning. Some requested holding individuals or concerns in the Light. Others shared their experience in worship. We held hands in a circle in order to connect physically with those who would be leaving early.

Seven Friends stayed for brown bag lunch and birthday cake for John Cooley. One person left after lunch.

We reconvened in the worship room and discerned that for the remaining hour and a quarter we would have worship sharing around a theme that had emerged during worship and further developed over lunch. We used a pillow as a talking "stick" to help us have clarity about whose turn it was and when they were done speaking. Toward the end of the time, another person who had left for lunch returned and joined the circle.

We closed with waiting worship.

Afterward, some Friends shared their experience:

“...it was a gift to have [an extended meeting for worship] in my home meeting! As in the past I was a bit intimidated by the 3 hour length of worship as we started. It went very quickly however! I liked the intimate gathering yesterday and felt a very ‘centered’ mfw.”

“I would like to do this again. ... I experienced deeper worship. ... I was not sure that I could sit still that long, but if I could , I knew that it would lead to deeper worship.”

“The experience was wonderfully rich for me—it was both calming and challenging; supportive and substantial. I felt empowered to listen to the Spirit and others more fully. I knew immediately that I want to experience extended worship again. ... [I thought that] it might be hard to sit in worship for such a long period. (It was not.)”

[Back to top](#)

Staff Travel Calendars

ARCH Staff

Martha Gurvich, Local Coordinator, Purchase

Callie Janoff, ARCH Director

Anita Paul, ARCH Specialist

Feb 27	Callie	Meeting for Discernment, Westbury, NY
Apr 1–3	Callie	Spring Sessions, Somerset & Plainfield, NJ
Apr 22–23	Callie & Martha	ARCH Visitor Training, Stony Point, NY
Apr 29–May 1	Callie	Brooklyn Meeting Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
May 5–6	Callie	NYYM staff retreat, Stony Point, NY
May 7–8	Anita	Quaker Values and End of Life Workshop, New Haven Meeting, New Haven, CT
May 13–15	Callie	Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering
May 19–20	Callie	Friends Services for the Aging CEO Retreat, Philadelphia, PA
May 22	Martha	ARCH Workshop: Getting Around to Getting Your Affairs in Order, with Rebekah Tanner, Wilton Meeting, Wilton, CT
May 30	Callie	Memorial meeting for worship, NYQM Cemetaery, Brooklyn, NY

General Secretary—Christopher Sammond

April

1–3	Attend Spring Sessions
14–16	Attend White Privilege Conference, Philadelphia, PA
17–18	Supoort the NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
29–30	Attend Emerging Practices in Quaker Outreach, Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA

May

1	Attend Emerging Practices in Quaker Outreach, Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA
5–6	Co-facilitate NYYM Staff Retreat, Stony Point Retreat Center, Stony Point, NY
13–15	FUM's Stoking the Fire gathering, Sophia, NC
20–22	Facilitate "From Seed to Flower," the next <i>Tending the Garden</i> retreat, Powell House,

Old Chatham, NY

June

4	Development Committee meeting, New York, NY
5	Visit Wilton Meeting, Wilton, CT
12	Visit and bring message to Poughkeepsie Meeting, Poughkeepsie, NY
16–24	Attend FUM General Board Meetings, Hoguein, Cuba

Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary

April

2–3	NYYM Spring Sessions, Somerset & Plainfield, NJ
10	Memorial meeting for Boyce Bengé, Brooklyn Meeting
14–17	White Privilege Conference, Philadelphia, PA

May

5–6	NYYM Staff Retreat, Stony Point, NY
7–8	Celebrate Ann Davidson's Hospitality & Spirit at Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
14	Protestant Day at Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, NY
15	Quaker meeting for worship, Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, NY
30	Memorial meeting for Rosa Packard, Purchase Meeting, Purchase, NY

June

19	Inreach to Outreach Workshop, Albany Meeting, Albany, NY
25	Quaker Day of Reflection, Otisville Prison, Otisville, NY

[Back to contents](#)