

InfoShare

New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Editor: Sarah Way

October 2016

BREAKING NEWS to share with your meeting: registration deadline for Fall Sessions, Nov. 11-12, extended until Monday, Oct. 31st!!

Introduction and Welcome to Fall Sessions

Dear Friends,

I look forward to seeing you at fall sessions, held this year in my own quarter and, on Sunday, in my own meeting. At summer sessions whenever I saw someone from Scarsdale Meeting, we would have a "Scarsdale hug." The hugs celebrated the deep connection I feel to my own meeting, and it will be a joy to sense that connection extending to Friends from across the Yearly Meeting as we worship, work and play together in November.

We have a cornucopia of good work to do: we will practice stewardship of our funds as we consider approval of our 2017 budget and hear reports from our trustees and treasurer. We'll hear about stewardship of our valuable staff resources as we get an update on the work of the ad hoc committee to re-examine the Yearly Meeting's staffing and administrative structures. We'll celebrate the first ever Quaker Party by hearing their Epistle.



Cooking at the First Ever Quaker Party

Melinda Wenner Bradley, our new Children and Youth Secretary, will check in on what's happening with Monthly Meeting Partner Project and with her work in general. We'll hear the first official report from our new Powell House directors, Regina and Dennis Haag. (By the way, you can catch beautiful pictures of Powell House if you follow reginabairdhaag on Instagram, and catch up with the doings of your clerk if you follow my Instagram posts at nymclerk.) And living into our priority of support and amplification of our witness in the world, we'll hear a report from our work to support the Standing Rock protests. It promises to be a fruitful weekend, as we consider these and many other good works of the Yearly Meeting. Please come!

In peace,

Lucinda Antrim
NYYM Clerk

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to InfoShare, the email newsletter NYYM sends out in the months between issues of Spark. I've attached a printable version that you may share with non-email-users in your meeting. Read on for news, announcements, job opportunities, and events happening around our yearly meeting!

Fall Sessions is almost here! The deadline to register for Fall Sessions – including the exciting youth program, which includes a teen sleepover at Purchase meetinghouse – has been extended to Oct. 31st. Get more information and download registration forms at www.nyym.org.

Write for Spark! Announce your meeting's news! The November issue's theme is Vocal Ministry. Please submit articles on that topic, or any other topic that has inspired you, to communications@nyym.org. Meeting clerks and others: please submit announcements and news from your meeting or committee. The deadline for November Spark submissions is Nov. 4th. Spark will appear later than usual this November because we're going to include news from Fall Sessions. If you'd like to report on the happenings at Fall Sessions, either at business meeting or your committee meeting, please email me at communications@nyym.org.

Keep up-to-date with NYYM events! I update the Facebook page and Tweet announcements that are too time-sensitive to wait for Spark or InfoShare. Join the NYYM Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting/> Follow me on Twitter: @NYYMtweets

Thanks, and peace to all,
Sarah Way
Interim Communications Director

Notes & Announcements

Volunteers Needed!

The host committee for **Fall Sessions** needs Friendly Adults to help us realize our exciting plans around the theme for the children and youth program, "Telling Our Stories." We have identified leaders for the groups, but they will need assistance from other Friends. For the high school youth, we're planning two overnights at Purchase Meetinghouse, and we'll need chaperones, drivers and provision of breakfast and snacks for these times. For children in the 4 to 14 age range, we'll have daytime programming all-day Saturday, including Saturday evening during coordinating committee time, and Sunday from 9:00am to noon. Babysitting will be provided for

registered children ages 0 to 4. Please get in touch with Mary Eagleson, mleagleson@aol.com or 914-328-7943, if you can help out in any way. Thank you!

NYYM Children and Youth Field Secretary on the Road!

Are you interested in a workshop to thresh ideas for First Day programming? Looking for new religious education resources, or ways to be more inclusive of children, youth, and families in meeting life? The Children and Youth Field Secretary is interested in hearing from you and arranging opportunities to serve local meetings. To explore scheduling a visit, contact Melinda Wenner Bradley at childrenyouthfs@nyym.org. Follow her travels on Twitter: @ChildrenYouthFS

Facebook Page for NYYM Families

Did you know there is a dedicated page for NYYM families on Facebook? It's <https://www.facebook.com/NYYMFamilies/> All Friends interested in supporting families in the lives of local meetings and the yearly meeting family should "like" the page and watch there for news about events and resources.

Manhasset Monthly Meeting formed a **Not-for-Profit** to serve the Long Island community: Long Island Quaker Charities, Inc. Membership is open to all Quakers residing on Long Island. Further information may be obtained from Jim Schultz by email at broschultz@hotmail.com

Stevens Fund Applications Open

The Stevens Fund is money held by NYYM Trustees in order to assist retired or disabled Friends who are in need; often, but not exclusively, pastors and ministers. The next list of distributions will be decided by the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee and take place at Fall Sessions, November 11- 13. Those who would like to apply please request an application from David Herendeen, dherendeen55@yahoo.com, 518 836 7209 or Anita Paul, anitalouisepaul@gmail.com, 518 374 2166. Applications are due by November 4th. If you know someone who would benefit from the Stevens Fund, please encourage them to apply.

Positions Available

Farmington Friends Church is hiring a pastor to start in April 2017. This position seeks someone with a commitment to Full Time Pastoral Ministry that is rooted in Quaker Practice and Christ Centered. Please let us know if you are or know someone interested. View the full job description on our web page: <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/farmington-friends-church/announcements/farmington-friends-church-pastor-position-opening>

Call for Nominations: The American Friends Service Committee is extending the application deadline for the organization's leadership position of General Secretary to November 7, 2016. We seek a spiritually motivated Friend with a deep commitment to

learning from others, demonstrated management experience, and familiarity with current AFSC programs. Please help us by encouraging Friends whom you feel are suited to the position to apply by direct conversation with them, or by nominating candidates, sending their names and contact information to the search committee clerk: dshenkel@afsc.org. The job description and link to the application process can be found on the AFSC website (afsc.org) under “Employment.”

Upcoming Events

The Black Concerns Committee is offering financial assistance for NYYM Friends to attend the *Beyond the White Privilege Conference* which will take place at Powell House from November 4-6, 2016. This will be an opportunity for Friends who attended WPC and those who were not able to be there to convene and share their stories. How did the conference most impact us? How are we actively engaged in the work of racial justice and challenging white privilege in our communities and our Meetings? How will the work continue within the Yearly Meeting? What are our joys and concerns around this work?

If you would like to request assistance please contact:

Helen Garay Toppins, clerk
Black Concerns Committee

Perry City Friends will host a contra dance on Saturday, November 5, at their meetinghouse on Rt. 227 in Perry City, 4.5 miles south of Trumansburg, NY. Ted Crane will call, Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers will play. You all know them from Spring Gathering!! We begin at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation: \$5/person, \$9/couple, \$12/family. Please come out and support Perry City Friends!

Purchase Meeting will hold its annual **Harvest Dinner** on Saturday, November 19 at 5:30pm. Join us for a home-cooked meal, the proceeds of which benefit the NYYM Sharing Fund and Westchester County's inter-congregational organization SHORE (Sheltering the Homeless is Our REsponsibility.) There will be homemade desserts and live music following dinner. You can reserve a place at the table through our website www.purchasemeeting.org.

Prophetic Listening: November 18-20, 2016 at Powell House. Listening for the eternal patterns in our lives and the world around us; hearing God's Spirit speaking in our lives and in the world. Listening is at the foundation of Quaker witness. Reflecting on how the prophetic stream from the Hebrew prophets to today can help us better listen. We will share stories of deep listening that help us hear patterns of the Spirit manifesting now. We hope that participants will gain a clear sense of how we can nurture and encourage expressions of prophetic listening in each other, our meetings, and in our witness to the wider world. Sign up online at www.powellhouse.org

Quaker Parent Meetup: Saturday, December 3 from 3-5:30pm at 15th Street

Meeting. Hosted by NYYM staff for parents of children and youth in New York Quarter. Parents in all quarters/regions welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: Youth Institute 2017

Exploring Faith Together April 21-23, 2017

Hosted by Chris DeRoller, Mike Clark, and Melinda Wenner Bradley, under the care of the Youth Committee of NYYM

REsources and REnewal joins with the Youth Institute for a weekend jam packed with useful materials, proven practices, conversations, fun and worship. Especially designed for adults and teens working with children and youth in our Meetings, it is open to everyone interested in exploring our faith together. The time will include plenaries, experiential learning, small group and whole group discussions, all grounded in joyful worship and fellowship together. Meetings are urged to send a team of Friends, including those serving on First Day, Religious Ed or Ministry and Counsel committees. Together, we will explore: *What does it mean to be a Quaker and how do we share this with others?* Our intention is that participants will come away from the weekend affirmed and refreshed, ready to move forward whether you're newly stepping into this work or a seasoned practitioner. For more information, or to register, visit info@powellhouse.org.

IS YOUR MEETING READY—EVEN JUST A LITTLE?

Is your monthly meeting showing signs of wanting to engage in more active outreach? Are there hints—even just little ones—indicating that the energy is there to explore and initiate at least one new welcoming activity in 2016-17? If so, then the newly formed Outreach Working Group of NYYM is encouraging those meetings to sign on to a new outreach process designed to support them going forward. The focus for 2016-17 will be on **“Becoming a More Welcoming Meeting”** (improving how we receive and engage new attenders and seekers).

Requirements are simple. We are asking each meeting to 1) designate at least one person (but preferably two) to participate in a conference call every other month between November 2016 and June 2017; 2) agree to undertake at least one welcoming activity, large or small, from a generous list of options; and 3) provide a one-page summary of the meeting's experience by June 2017. The process is designed to be collaborative, incremental, conducted at a pace individualized for each meeting, and with resources and encouragement suitable to each meeting's needs and leadings. At the end of Year One, meetings can decide if they wish to participate in Year Two the focus of which will be **“Becoming a More Inviting Community”** (how we reach out into the community around us).

What's not to like about this?! Supportive collaboration with other Friends around the Yearly Meeting as you share experience and resources. Individualized, incremental outreach projects that meet each monthly meeting where it is now in the outreach spectrum. There is no judgment. Only encouragement. Use this link for additional help in discerning whether your meeting might be ready to engage in more active outreach:

<http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/MeetingDiscernment-QuakerOutreach.pdf>.

We encourage you to bring this opportunity to the attention of your monthly meeting *as soon as possible* in order to become part of the process. To register the interest of your meeting or to learn more about the process contact Arlene Johnson (arlene_johnson@verizon.net) or Robin Whitely (rlwhitely@comcast.net).

Staff Travel Calendars

ARCH Director, Callie Janoff

October 28 Rahway-Plainfield Meeting Caregivers Support Group

October 29-30 The Hickman Friends Senior Community, West Chester PA ARCH presentation

November 1 Boomer Generation Radio Interview, WWDB AM Philadelphia

November 11-13 Fall Sessions, Scarsdale and White Plains, NY

November 19 Keeping Our Elders NYQM Retreat, Brooklyn, NY

Children and Youth Field Secretary, Melinda Wenner Bradley

November 11-13 Fall Sessions, Scarsdale and White Plains, NY

December 3 Parent Meetup

General Secretary, Christopher Sammond

October 1 Facilitate Retreat on Vocal Ministry for Albany Monthly Meeting, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

October 13 Co-host Quakers and Business gathering, New York, NY

October 15 Support Chatham Summit Monthly Meeting annual retreat, Chatham, NJ

October 16 Participate in training focus group facilitators for Monthly Meeting Partner Project, Old Chatham MM, Old Chatham, NY

October 17-19 Co-facilitate NYYM/NEYM Pastors Retreat, Weekapaug, RI

October 22 Attend Budget Saturday, Purchase, NY

November 4-6 Attend *Beyond the White Privilege Conference* conference, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

November 11-13 Fall Sessions, Scarsdale and White Plains, NY

November 16 Meet with General Secretaries of NEYM, BYM and PhYM, Philadelphia, PA

November 17 Meet with trustees of the Shoemaker Fund, Philadelphia, PA

Young Adult Field Secretary, Emily Provance

October 29 Behind the Bars at Brooklyn meeting

October 30 Visit New Brunswick meeting

November 11-13 Fall Sessions, Scarsdale and White Plains, NY