

# InfoShare

## New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

Editor: Sarah Way

December 2016

### Introduction and Info about Spark and Social Media

Welcome to December InfoShare, the email newsletter of New York Yearly Meeting. Read on for announcements, events, job opportunities, and news from Friends. A printable version is attached—please print out and bring to your meeting to share with Friends who don't use computers. Onward!

**Write for Spark! Announce your meeting's news!** The January issue's theme is the Connection Between Witness and Faith. Please submit articles on that topic, or any other topic that has inspired you, to [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org). Meeting clerks and others: please submit announcements and news from your meeting or committee. The rest of our Yearly Meeting wants to hear from you. The deadline for January Spark submissions is January 4th.

**Keep up-to-date with NYYM events!** I update the Facebook page and Tweet announcements and news updates that are too time-sensitive to wait for Spark or InfoShare. Join the NYYM Facebook group, or read without a Facebook account here: <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting/> Follow me on Twitter: @NYYMtweets or you can read NYYM's tweets (short and timely messages) here: <https://twitter.com/NYYMTweets>

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

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### Notes & Announcements

#### New Welcoming Sign at 15th Street Meetinghouse

There's a new sign outside of 15th Street Meetinghouse that states "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." It then repeats that message in Spanish and Arabic. The sign was created at a Mennonite church in Harrisonburg, Va., and is spreading through word-of-mouth to communities across the country. How the sign got started: <https://themennonite.org/feature/apolitical-sign-political-times/> A PDF of the sign is here, available for download and printing: <https://immanuelmennonite.wordpress.com/2016/09/27/welcome-sign/>



### **NYYM Quakers Visit Standing Rock Camp**

Several NYYM Friends travelled to the encampment at Standing Rock, ND, over the past two months. Native Americans are protecting the water and land from the incursion of the Dakota Access (oil) Pipeline. Friends were moved by the spirit in the camp. Ian Hansen of 15th Street Meeting reported that “the atmosphere of solidarity, shared work, generosity, song and prayer was like nothing I’ve ever seen anywhere. It was beautiful and transformative, and to have it produce the shift in tone for the Army Corps of Engineers (not a complete victory, but great news) is a wonderful message of hope to the world.” Kristian Nammack, also from 15th Street, said, “On my second day (Sunday 12/4) I met a number of veterans, as they had begun to arrive in large numbers on Sunday, in advance of the deadline date given by the Governor (12/5) to evacuate the encampments. I was especially moved by their solidarity, and saw in action a mixture of groups I would not normally expect would join together naturally: progressive environmental activists, military personnel, Native Americans, and people of conscience in general.” You can read the complete interview with Kristian at <http://www.nnym.org/?q=Interview-KristianNammack>

Other NYYM Friends who spent time at Oceti Sakowin camp at Standing Rock include Maizy Broderick Scarpa of Old Chatham and Chris Japely and Steven Bhardwaj of 15th Street. Liseli Haines and Buffy Curtis of Mohawk Valley drove out a van-ful of supplies and made it through a blizzard while travelling home.

Updates on our Friends at Standing Rock were published on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting/> More articles and interviews from Friends who visited Standing Rock will appear in the next issue of Spark.

Donations and visitor update: Standing Rock camps are no longer accepting any donations except for firewood and financial donations, and they now ask that visitors stay home until winter is over. For up-to-date news visit:

[sacredstonecamp.org/blog/](http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/)  
[www.ocetisakowincamp.org/](http://www.ocetisakowincamp.org/)

Here's an informative update from the Sacred Stone camp about the easement denial and next steps: [sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/12/2/obama-administration-denies-final-easement-whats-next](http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/12/2/obama-administration-denies-final-easement-whats-next)

Also, this is an excellent Friends Journal article on Quaker Earthcare Witness at Standing Rock, including personal experiences and photos:  
[www.friendsjournal.org/standing-rock/](http://www.friendsjournal.org/standing-rock/)

### **Staten Island Executive Meeting**

Staten Island Friends are no longer meeting in a private home and now have a public meeting space at 450-A Front Street, Staten Island, NY 10304. The location is wheelchair accessible and approximately 10 minutes from the ferry. Ted Lochwyn is the new Clerk and Betsy Wilson is the new Assistant Clerk. With rare exception, Meeting for Worship occurs on the 2nd and 4th First Day of each month, starting shortly after 10 (to accommodate those arriving by ferry), followed by socializing. They would love Friendly visitors. For more information, including a map:

<http://www.nyym.org/statenisland/>

### **Welcome Latin American Friends to Stony Point area this March**

The FWCC Section of the Americas is going to meet at Stony Point Center, NY, on March 23-26, 2017. There are opportunities for local Friends to offer companionship and hospitality to visiting Latin American Friends. There are Friends coming from a distance who would be happy to visit Friends in the local area before or after the meeting. For example, Latin American Friends will arrive early for a meeting that starts on Monday, March 20th. Some of them could easily arrive for the weekend before, to attend meeting for worship and to speak at local meetings. The 15 or so Latin American Friends will also have a free afternoon on Wednesday, March 22. If local Friends were willing to arrange an excursion to see the Hudson River and any local historical sites, that would be much appreciated. Contact Robin Mohr at [robinm@fwccamericas.org](mailto:robinm@fwccamericas.org) or 215-241-7157.

### **ARCH Arrives in Prison and ARCH Visitor Training**

Members of the ARCH Network have been working with prison volunteers and visitors and incarcerated Friends to better serve the needs of those aging in prison. While these working relationships are new, the energy of these two powerful ministries coming together is inspiring new ways of collaboration. To find out more or to get involved contact Callie Janoff, Director of the ARCH program at [arch@nyym.org](mailto:arch@nyym.org)

Also, mark your calendars—ARCH Visitor Training is coming to New York City! We will be gathering Friday evening March 24 to Sunday lunch March 26, 2017. Many Friends say something like "Training? I'm already over committed and can't take on anything more." The weekend retreat is an opportunity to develop skills, deepen sensitivity, and collect valuable resources for the work you are already doing! This weekend retreat is open to all. Apply today at <http://tinyurl.com/ARCHTrainingSpring2017> or contact Callie Janoff at [arch@nysm.org](mailto:arch@nysm.org) for more information.

### **News from Oakwood Friends School**

Oakwood Friends School has been brainstorming ways to reach and connect with the Quaker community beyond the Oakwood campus, including outreach to NYYM, local Quaker Meetings, Quaker alums and board members. There's a new student-generated newsletter, viewable here: <http://www.nysm.org/sites/default/files/Oakwood-Friends-Student-Service-Dec2016.pdf>, highlighting the community outreach and service work students do inside and outside the classroom. Oakwood is also implementing a substantial new Friends Community Scholarship program to attract more Quakers to their school; see this document for more details:

<http://www.nysm.org/sites/default/files/Oakwood-Friends-Community-Scholarship.pdf>

Mahdia Daqiq, an Oakwood Friends student from Afghanistan, wrote a powerful statement in support of the new refugee resettlement program in Poughkeepsie and directed it to the County Executive. "Let's not forget that our own family was once refugees and our own children might be refugees one day. So treat today's refugees the way that you want people to treat you and your children. Let's forget everything else and just remember that they are human like us." The entire letter is available to be read online here: <http://www.nysm.org/sites/default/files/Molinero-refugee-resettlement-letter.pdf>

To subscribe to the monthly Oak Leaflet newsletter, or for questions about the Quaker scholarship, contact Chad Cianfrani, Oakwood's Head of School, at [ccianfrani@oakwoodfriends.org](mailto:ccianfrani@oakwoodfriends.org)

### **Upper Hudson Peace Action**

There is now an Upper Hudson Peace Action Facebook page! Upper Hudson Peace Action is the Peace Action chapter for NY's Capital District region, including Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Saratoga, and nearby communities.

Please like and share: <https://www.facebook.com/UpperHudsonPeaceAction>

### **NEW Opportunities for NYYM Families to Connect**

The first **Quaker Parent Meetup** occurred on Saturday, December 3. Parents and kids from six Monthly Meetings in four Quarters gathered, and wonderful child care was provided by teen and YAF caregivers. The format of these events is welcoming and relaxed; we created space for worship sharing with parents and lots of time for fellowship. It was an opportunity to connect around joys and challenges we face as

Quaker parents, and a participant lifted up how nurturing it was to hear one another's stories. A great time was had by all, and YM staff look forward to planning the next one!

Gratitude to NYQM and Fifteenth Street for welcoming us into their space, and to Ministry Coordinating Committee for their support of this event. Watch for news of upcoming Meetups in 2017, and contact [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org) to organize one in your Quarter, Region, or Half YM.

Did you know that there's a page for **NYYM Families on Facebook**? You'll find news about events for families and articles of interest for parents and youth.

[www.facebook.com/NYYMFamilies](http://www.facebook.com/NYYMFamilies)

### **Sessions: Pay as Led and Equalization Fund!**

Sessions Committee is committed to making all NYYM sessions affordable for everyone who wishes to attend. As we reported at Summer Sessions, we are exploring the possibility of using a Pay as Led process for our 2018 Summer Sessions, a process currently being successfully modeled by New England Yearly Meeting (see report [here](#)). A complication for NYYM is the vast range of prices for room and board at Silver Bay Association. When the room prices vary, it is much more complicated to ensure that folks pay what they are comfortable paying AND the real price of each room is covered. While Sessions Committee works on these complications, NYYM already has an immediate and successful process for financial assistance in place—the Equalization Fund (EQ). Currently, we ask for donations to the EQ three times a year on each of our sessions registration forms. However, donations can be made to the EQ fund at any time via the online “Donate to NYYM” link at [nyym.org](http://nyym.org)—in the “This payment is for:” box, simply note you are making a donation to the Equalization Fund! When setting up a one-time or monthly donation, you could think in terms of eventually covering the cost of a \$612 double occupancy room at Hepron or Paine Hall. We expect more people will need financial aid this year because many will also be attending the FGC Gathering in Niagara, NY. Thanks for your donations!

### **FGC Gathering Keynote Speaker and Workshops Announced**

Pamela Boyce Sims will be the keynote speaker at the FGC Gathering to be held at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:45pm. The subject of her talk will be Eco-Justice, Equality and Earthcare. Pamela Boyce Simms is a Leadership Coach who convenes the Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub, a six-state network of environmental activists. She is a Buddhist-Quaker, a United Nations ECOSOC Representative of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), clerk of New York Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group, a Henry J. Cadbury Fellow at the Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center, and a contributing editor at the Grassroots Economic Organizing Editorial Collective. She demonstrates how working with the pain of the world can be a vehicle for self and community transformation. “Quakers have the power and historical momentum to be heard. Friends are poised to drop a pebble, —which in co-creation with spirit, can swell ripples into mighty waves.”

The workshops for FGC have just been announced and a list is available here:  
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/workshops>  
FGC Gathering is July 2-8. Early registration starts April 3<sup>rd</sup>. More info:  
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

## Positions Available

### Help Wanted at Powell House

**Snow Removal Person:** This person must be available to work when snow is accumulating! The position is part-time, hourly work. If you live nearby and would like to earn some extra money, let Regina know at 518-794-8811 or by emailing [regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org)

**Cooks:** We would like to add another person or two to the supply of folks who are employed for weekend retreats and programs (both adult and youth) to provide meals under the direction of our food service manager, Tony. Send your resumes to [Tony@powellhouse.org](mailto:Tony@powellhouse.org).

### Employment Opportunities at Silver Bay

Silver Bay YMCA is a 115-year old Conference and Training Center located on the northern shores of Lake George in New York. Throughout the summer, Silver Bay serves over 800 people per week from guests and conference participants to family reunions and weddings. Outside of the summer season, Silver Bay welcomes many different conferences and school groups. Silver Bay prides itself on the dedication and love its staff has for the YMCA and the community that Silver Bay serves. This 700-acre facility offers an eclectic experience for both employees (referred to as EMPS) and guests. Silver Bay is situated in a sun-dappled Adirondack paradise offering programs and activities for all generations.

Come be part of an incredible organization, striving to make the world a better place.

#### **FULL -TIME EMPLOYMENT**

[Sales Director](#)

[Development Director](#)

[Food Services Director](#)

[Conference Coordinator](#)

#### **PART-TIME AND SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT (without housing)**

[EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION](#)

#### **SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT (with housing)**

Information and Applications:

Each year Silver Bay hires approximately 180 staff during the summer and 15-30 staff during the Spring and Fall to work and live on campus. The [2017 Emp Application Booklet](#) provides more information about the Emp Experience and the jobs we have available. Please contact [personnel@silverbay.org](mailto:personnel@silverbay.org) with any additional questions.

How to Apply:

First-Time Emps can download a [New Emp Application](#), or you can contact us to obtain one by e-mailing your address to [personnel@silverbay.org](mailto:personnel@silverbay.org), or calling us at 518-543-

8833 ext. 211. You must be 18 years old or a graduate from high school to work at Silver Bay. You must also provide three references; from either a teacher, minister, employer, or a former Emp (please no relatives or friends).

## Upcoming Events

### **THIS SATURDAY, Dec. 17th: Fundraising Concert at Poughkeepsie Meeting**

Enjoy a concert of flute music to support the Mid-Hudson Refugees Welcome Fund on Saturday, December 17th, at 5:00pm.

Flutist Rachel Susser, a postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music in London, will perform music by Bach, Sencan and Schubert in collaboration with pianist Michael Skelly. The recital will take place at the Friends Meeting House at 249 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Tickets can be purchased at the door: \$25; students: \$10. The concert will be followed by a reception to meet the artists. Help to welcome our new neighbors to Dutchess County.

### **Being of Service: Exploring Public Ministry in our Meetings**



A conference with Kristina and Callid Keefe-Perry, February 10-12, 2017, at Powell House. If you are a person that feels called into service, you might not quite know what your role is, how to get the connection and support you need, or what the relationship is supposed to be between your personal sense of leading and your community's oversight of it. If any of these things seem familiar, this is a weekend for you. Visit [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org).

### **Celebrating 100 Years of the American Friends Service Committee**

As the 100th anniversary of AFSC approaches, AFSC wants to share powerful lessons from its history and remember the connections AFSC has built across the world. AFSC has developed a traveling museum exhibition titled "Waging Peace: 100 Years of Action." This interactive exhibition will open in January 2017 at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. AFSC has also created a condensed version of the exhibit for use at Quaker meetings and churches. If your meeting/church would like to host the condensed exhibit, visit [www.starcafe.org/service/centennial](http://www.starcafe.org/service/centennial) to fill out a short reservation form.

AFSC will also be hosting a peace and justice summit conference on April 20-23, 2017, in Philadelphia. The summit will articulate a vision forward for peace and justice by joining movements that are making the connection between militarism, racism, and materialism. It consists of an academic symposium and a variety of workshops, culminating in a day of action to “let our lives speak”. Everyone is welcome. Visit the AFSC Centennial website, [afsc.org/100](http://afsc.org/100), for details.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Meeting for Discernment**

Meeting for Discernment is a chance for extended worship among NYYM Friends, to experience what is rising in our meetings and in our selves. The next Meeting for Discernment will take place at Poplar Ridge meeting house, 1868 Poplar Ridge Rd., Poplar Ridge NY 13139, on Saturday, March 11, 2017, with a "snow date" of Saturday, March 18, 2017. The focus will be *bringing the peaceable kingdom to a turbulent world*.

### **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](mailto:info@powellhouse.org).

### **SAVE THE DATE: Continuing Revolution: Pendle Hill's Young Adult Friends Conference**

June 2-7, 2017 focusing on PEACE and Justice

Pendle Hill's Continuing Revolution six-day conference orchestrates a profoundly impactful training-oriented conference of 40-45 young adults (ages 18-35). Each year, we design programming around one of the Quaker Testimonies that energizes, inspires, and connects Friends with an interest in social action and justice. Continuing Revolution is a uniquely positioned conference at the intersection of faith and activism.

Our intensive program focuses on deepening participants' relationship with the Religious Society of Friends, nourishes their own faith and practice, and invigorates their identities as social change agents. The world needs radical systemic change, and



each year Pendle Hill serves as a gathering, training ground for f/Friends on this path. For more information, please contact us at [kmcquail@pendlehill.org](mailto:kmcquail@pendlehill.org) (Katrina McQuail) or [agreulich@pendlehill.org](mailto:agreulich@pendlehill.org) (Amy Greulich). You can find us on FB and Twitter, @Cont\_R\_v\_lution.

## **Staff Travel Calendars**

### **ARCH Director, Callie Janoff**

**January 27-28** Powell House, Coordinating Committee Weekend

### **Children and Youth Field Secretary, Melinda Wenner Bradley**

**January 8** Pendle Hill clerking Faith & Play Group retreat

**January 28-29** Poplar Ridge Meeting for programs, worship and fellowship with their community and Ithaca Meeting

**February (dates TBD)** Focus Groups with Partner Meetings at Montclair and Wilton meetings

**March 4** Rochester Meeting for Youth Institute in FSRM

### **General Secretary, Christopher Sammond**

**November 28** Visit with Perry City Friends to support local outreach efforts. Trumansberg, NY

**December 9** Visit Cayuga Prison Worship Group, Moravia, NY

**December 10** Visit Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting, Auburn, NY

**December 17** Attend memorial for Mark Kenmore, Orchard Park, NY

**January 6-7** Co-facilitate retreat for Manasquan MM on *Living Out the Heart of Worship*, a retreat focusing on the challenge of keeping our hearts open when confronted with *the other*, Manasquan, NJ

**January 27-28** Participate in Coordinating Committee Weekend, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY

### **Co-Young Adult Field Secretary, Emily Provance**

**December 17** Facilitating Young Adult Mini-Retreat at Chatham-Summit Meeting

**December 18** Worship with Wilton Meeting

**January 14** Co-Hosting QUED Talk Day at Chatham-Summit

**January 22** Worship with Ithaca Meeting

**January 27-28** Coordinating Committee Weekend

**March 11** Meeting for Discernment

**March 18** Supporting a Parent Meet-up in NYQM

**March 20-26** Friends World Committee for Consultation Section Meeting and Traveling Ministry Corps Training

**March 31-April 2** Spring Sessions