

Yearly Meeting Ministry

Two Row Wampum.



Buffy Curtis (left) and Liseli Haines on the Hudson

NYYM Friends participated in an enactment of the Two Row Wampum Treaty between the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and the Dutch 400 years ago this year. Friends Buffy Curtis and Liseli Haines paddled the Hudson all the way from Albany to NYC, culminating in a UN event on Indigenous Peoples' rights. Roughly 75 other Friends paddled for shorter distances and provided support.

Prison ministry. Our prison ministry continues to flourish in 11 prison facilities. Friends are laboring with the NY Department of Corrections, which has so far denied a request from Friends in the Clinton prison facility for a worship group. *Breathing Space*, a place for formerly incarcerated people to reintegrate into society, is getting up and running.

Nurturing ministry. Friends' renewed focus on nurturing ministry throughout the Yearly Meeting continued this year. The Advancement Committee sponsored the fourth in its series of consultations, this one the second on ministry. The Spiritual Nurture Working Group conducted two events on being an elder and are planning another for early 2014; they also are developing a spiritual formation program that will be organized regionally.



New youth programs. Fall Sessions 2013 featured programs for youth for the first time in a long while and we intend to continue this practice for Fall and Spring Sessions going forward.

Meetings for Discernment. These gatherings for extended worship continue to deeply enrich the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting.

Minutes of service. The Yearly Meeting continues to give its support to Friends traveling abroad under minutes of service and witness:

- Nadine Hoover works to bring reconciliation to communities in Indonesia torn by violence.
 - Judy Meikle has been traveling with a concern for the criminal justice system in the US.
 - Rachel Pia travels as part of FGC's New Meetings Project.
- In addition . . .
- Jens Braun has conducted AVP workshops in Bolivia, Columbia, and Ecuador.
 - Margaret Lechner has done the same in El Salvador.
 - Several Friends work with the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.

Local Meeting News

New worship groups. We have a new worship group in Princeton, New Jersey, started by New York Yearly Meeting Friends with support from our Young Adult Field Secretary.

New meetinghouse.

Old Chatham Meeting occupied its brand new meetinghouse (left).

Yearly Meeting Staff

Gabi Savory Bailey has dramatically increased Young Adult Friend participation in meeting life. She's launched a YAF newsletter, has helped to start a new worship group, nurtured young families, and led workshops and retreats, both in the Yearly Meeting and for Friends United meeting.

**YOUNG ADULT
FIELD SECRETARY**

Steven Davison has been working with local meetings on their websites, improving Yearly Meeting publications, bringing the Yearly Meeting into the digital age, and developing an emergency communications plan.

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR**

Christopher Sammond will have made his 200th visit to a local meeting by year's end. He provided support and facilitation for the NYYM/NEYM pastors retreat, the Advancement Consultation, the Northeast Christ-Centered Friends Gathering, and the Nightingales Singing Weekend, as well as leadership for FUM's program to nurture local meetings around the country. A four-month sabbatical returned him to Yearly Meeting service spiritually refreshed.

**GENERAL
SECRETARY**

Helen Garay Toppins continues to visit meetings and prison worship groups. A trained Quaker Quest facilitator, she co-facilitated three Quaker Quest events this year. She also spoke twice at the Queens Historical Society as part of an exhibit titled "Practicing Equality—Quakers in Queens."

**ASSOCIATE
SECRETARY**



Bayard Rustin being arrested at Yale University while supporting a clerical workers' strike, 1985.

On behalf of his late partner and 15th Street Meeting Friend Bayard Rustin, Walter Naegle received from President Obama the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the nation, awarded posthumously. In addition, Walter has served as a presenter and resource for both public and local meeting events celebrating Bayard Rustin's life and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, for which Rustin was the chief organizer.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSOCIATE**

In addition to training Visitors (more than 93 so far!) and conducting workshops and consultations, ARCH coordinators Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, and Barbara Spring are developing an electronic senior housing directory and exploring how to best serve prison worship groups. The ARCH method is being shared with yearly meetings throughout the country.



Thank you card from Junior Yearly Meeting to Freida Jacques, our plenary speaker from the Haudenosaunee at Summer Sessions, depicting the Two Row Wampum on a turtle representing Turtle Island.

Yearly Meeting Committees



In this its second year of extensive visitation with local meetings, the Priorities Working Group is reaching clarity about local meeting priorities and is preparing to present its recommendations at Spring and Summer Sessions next year.

**PRIORITIES
WORKING GROUP**

ADVANCEMENT | Advancement Committee sponsored a second consultation on ministry, the fourth in their series. It also has published on the Yearly Meeting website (Resources tab) a large number of resources covering a range of subjects for use by monthly and regional meetings.

The Conflict Transformation Committee has conducted retreats for New York Quarter and Northeastern Regional Meeting, and has been invited to bring their work to two gatherings of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas next year.

**CONFLICT
TRANSFORMATION**