

QUAKER OUTREACH



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A New Collaboration!

Dear Friends,

We're delighted to share with you *Quaker Outreach*, a collaborative outreach newsletter produced through a partnership between New York Yearly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). With support from the NYYM Outreach Working Group, we've been building the list of subscribers in New York Yearly Meeting, and this first issue will be followed by the second issue shortly.

Below, you'll find an explanation about how this vital collaboration across yearly meetings will work, written by Beth Collea, Religious Education & Outreach Coordinator for New England Yearly Meeting.

Our thanks to the *Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund* for their generous support of the *Fostering Vibrant Meetings* project undertaken by NEYM and NYYM, through which this new e-newsletter began. From time to time, we will highlight our learnings from the Monthly Meeting Partner Project in building vital multigenerational Quaker meetings.

We hope you feel welcome to this lively and engaged Quaker Outreach community of practice. Thanks for joining us on the journey!

P.S.—Excited about the possibilities for this effort? Here's one thing you can do right now:

Click on one of the icons at the top or bottom of this email to share this newsletter on social media, or by email with folks you think would be interested in receiving it.

Your recommendations to those in your network will be an important part in growing the web of connections supporting this new initiative. Thanks!

The plan:

In each issue of Quaker Outreach, planned to be published quarterly, we'll share strategies and resources and our questions about building the Quaker movement through living invitations to our Quaker faith and practice. The concerns of religious education and "inreach" will be woven into the fabric of our conversation, too.

The creation and collection of the content will happen in a centralized way under the leadership of New England Yearly Meeting with collaboration by New York YM Friends.

But here's something different: We'll disseminate this e-newsletter in a decentralized way, yearly meeting by yearly meeting, to both expand the reach of our conversation and limit the work of maintaining lists, allowing each participating group to make their own modifications and maintain their own contact lists.

We are making the template of this Mailchimp newsletter available to other yearly meetings. All they will need is an account with [Mailchimp](#) and an email list for their yearly meeting or Friends network. As a participant, they will be free to add their logo and send it out to their e-list as is or to customize the content.

We've created a [Minute of Understanding](#) with more details to clarify the "rules of the road" for this collaboration. Our underlying hope is to increase the vitality of the Quaker movement—in our own and in other yearly meetings—by

making another mode of support for their local meetings available to them. For us, sharing is a spiritual practice, and we trust in the abundance that's possible when we embrace it.

Outreach as Witness

Creating a Banner for Parades and Outdoor Events

from Kathleen Wooten, Events Coordinator, New England Yearly Meeting



Fresh Pond Friends are easy to spot at the Boston Women's March in January 2017

Many meetings and churches are carrying their messages in public ways--at events, in parades, at marches. Meetings are finding that having an effective, readable message is important in the work of organizing and spreading information.

An outdoor banner has particular challenges and benefits. Here are a few suggestions to think about when designing a banner.

1. **Use a simple message.** Assume the banner will be read in less than 15 seconds, by someone walking or driving by. "Quakers for Peace" or "Quakers See God in Everyone" are examples--or simply the name of your monthly meeting. Will you use this for more than one event? A more general message may work for an often-used banner.

2. **Don't use religious "jargon"**—and use the word "Quaker." The general public has a different definition of "Friend"—"Quaker" is a quick distinctive group title more easily recognized, or looked up later.

3. **Use a large, consistent font.** Block letters are good. Fancy script, while pretty, is too hard to read quickly.

[Read more](#)

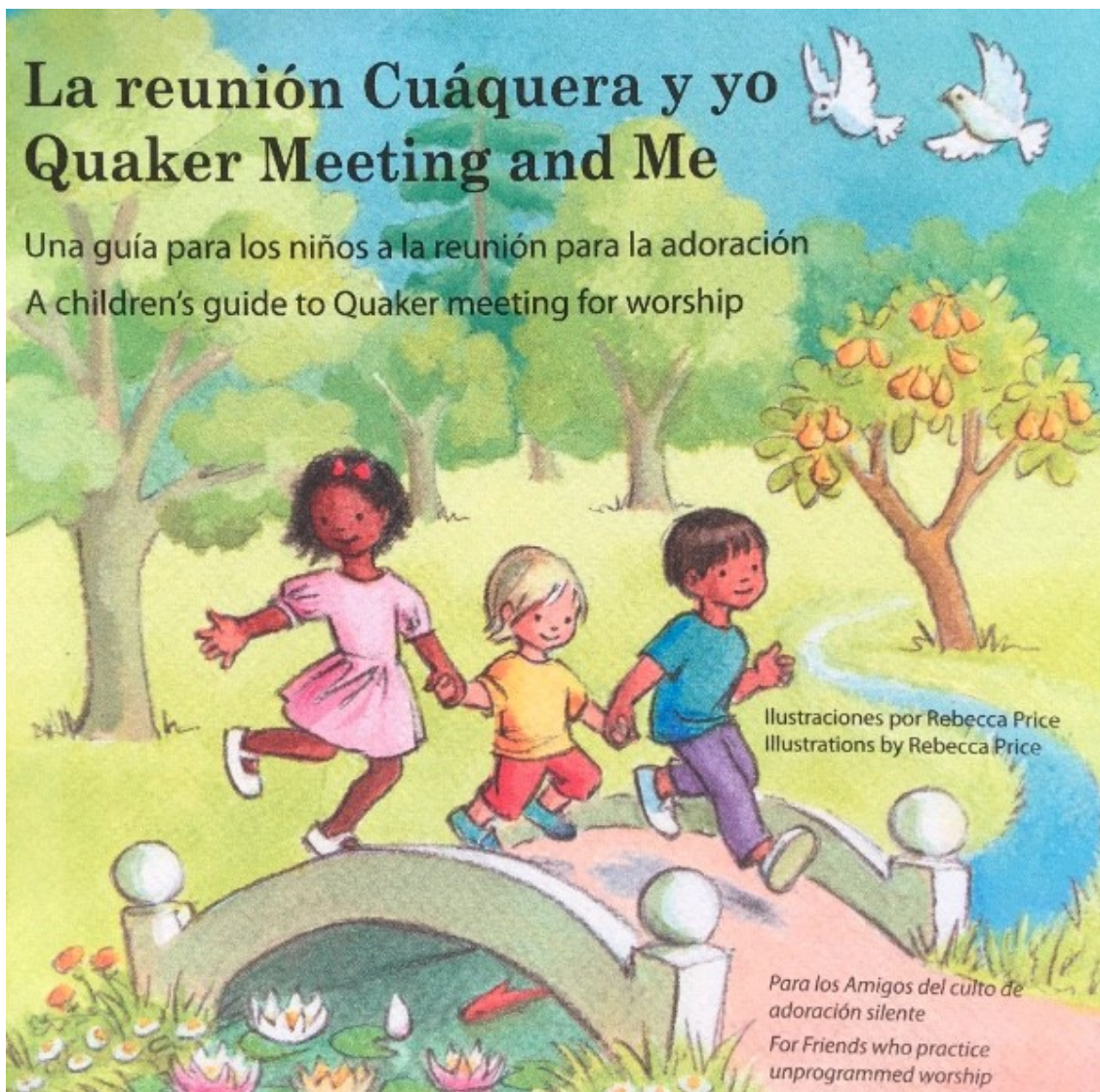


Outreach as Welcome

New Publication: "Quaker Meeting and Me"

from the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)





The new publication is both an Outreach and Religious Education Resource for Friends

Quaker Meeting and Me is being shared with meetings across the US and in Latin America in a spirit of joyful welcome and inclusion, with bilingual text and versions for both un-programmed and programmed worship. This little book, originally published by Britain YM, is designed to encourage Friends to become familiar with the many ways that Friends listen for God.

We hope these books will serve you well as you welcome families with young children into meeting life. You can use them in many ways:

- Keep a small stack of them in a basket for times when children are in worship with the community
- Tuck into a note of welcome written after a family's visit to your meeting
- Explore the story in a First Day program for children
- Give as gifts for children in the meeting at birthdays or end of the program year

- Share with both the RE and Ministry and Worship committees — this is a children’s resource, but their spiritual lives should be under the care of both groups

These books are made available to you through a generous grant from the Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund, and support from the Ministry Coordinating Committee of New York Yearly Meeting.

Contact the [Quaker Religious Education Collaborative](#) with questions or to request more.



Outreach as Inreach

The Courageous Work of Weaving Vital, Multi-Age Faith Communities

from Gabi Savory-Bailey, New York Yearly Meeting



This new pamphlet from New York Friends lifts up 4 central strands that weave together a fabric to support newcomers, and most importantly, *those who are already here*. Each strand has an explanation, a set of queries, and some next steps to get started.

The strands are interdependent, and are often tied together. Changes can

be daunting, and *this is a starting point* for the conversation of how we attract, and continue relationships with, young adult Friends (YAFs) and families.

[Read the pamphlet](#)

Wait!



I still have a question I'd love to explore...

Reach out for more ideas & support



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YEARLY MEETING
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