

Quaker



N e w s l e t t e r

February 2020

15 Rutherford Place, (2nd and 3rd Aves at 15th St) NYC 10003
212.475.0466 Fifteenthstreetny@yahoo.com
quaker.org/legacy/15stfriends/ or: nycquakers.org

THE NEWSLETTER OF
FIFTEENTH STREET
MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Every Sunday

9:30 a.m. **Meeting for Worship**, *Meeting Room*

11 a.m. **Meeting for Worship**, *Meeting Room*



11 a.m. **First Day School**, Activities for children, and childcare for infants. See Greeting Committee for directions to room 3.

Every Wednesday at 5pm

Meeting for Worship and Healing

Formerly known as "Quaker Prayer Healing phone meeting" will be held every Wednesday at 5:00PM EST (New York City time). To join the conference call, start by dialing the number below and then follow the prompts for the access code. You will be prompted to "announce yourself" once you join the call. Please do so, even if it's silent, so we all know who has joined!
USA: (712) 451-0673 Access Code 357843#

For more information, contact Patty Frascatore at brooklynprayerhealing@gmail.com

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

9:30 a.m. **Manhattan Monthly Meeting**, *Room 1*
Programmed Meeting for Worship. All are welcome.

Every Night of the Year

7 pm **Friends Shelter**, *Common Room*.

To volunteer or for more information, call 212.673.8316, www.friendsshelter.org

To seek shelter, contact the MainChance
120 East 32nd Street NYC 212 .883 .0680
open every day 24/7

<http://www.grandcentralneighborhood.org/services/mainchance-drop-in-center/>

Most Sundays

12:30ish in *Common Room*, as available:

Social Sculpture for Individual Goals

The Arts Committee invites you to participate in this unique discussion group that takes place after 11:00 Meeting for Worship in the common room. Social Sculpture for Individual Goals gives you a chance to talk about your personal or creative goals and how they're progressing. We listen and offer support without crosstalk or questions. There's power in speaking and being heard, putting your ideas into words, seeing and feeling how they're received.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every 1st Sunday

12:20 – 1 **Life of the Meeting**, a.k.a. Clerks' Meeting

All are welcome to attend. This will be a chance for us to talk about what's going on in the meeting, especially about topics relevant across committees.

1:15-2:15 p.m. **Silent Vigil for Peace**

Washington Square Arch at Fifth Avenue

Depart from the Meeting House at 12:30.

Every 2nd Sunday

9:30 a.m. **Manhattan Monthly Meeting Bible Study, Room 1**

11 a.m. **Bible Discussion Group, 2nd floor Lounge**
Everyone is welcome, no preparation needed. We are currently reading the Gospel of John. For more information: sabjonze@gmail.com

Noon **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, meeting room.** All are welcome.

Every 3rd Sunday

1 p.m. The **Ministry and Worship Third Sunday Program** Discussions, presentations, or worship sharing on topics of concern to Friends.

Feb 16th: Julie Finch on Coming to the Table, a group that seeks to heal the racial wounds of the past, from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.

Every 4th Sunday

1 p.m. **Friends in Unity with Nature**

Meets at 15th Street in room 1.

Every 2nd Monday

6:30 p.m. **Women's Worship Sharing Group**

Room 3

Pot luck at 6:30pm, Worship Sharing 7 to 8PM

HELP THE HOMELESS!

Shelter Volunteers Needed

Come join our all-volunteer nighttime shelter for 14 homeless men and women, operating 365 days each year in the Common Room at 15th Street Meeting.

Most of our volunteers work one night each month. You must be at least 18 years old.

Contact us at friendsshelter@gmail.com or visit friendsshelter.org for more information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All are welcome to attend the meetings listed.

Arts Committee

2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM, Committee Room
All are welcome to propose ideas or help.

Religious Education Committee

4th Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

R.E. meetings are the fourth Sunday of every month in room 3. Childcare provided. Potluck lunch appreciated. Contact Ann Kjellberg (kjellzer@pipeline.com).

Peace and Social Justice Committee

Last Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

The Peace Committee meets the last Sunday of every month after 11 o'clock meeting, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Men's Group

Sunday, 6-9 pm (usually 3rd Sunday)

Will meet in room1, at the Meetinghouse for pot-luck supper, conversation and worship-sharing on a topic. For information contact Jimmy Gowans.

Social Hour Hosting Reboot!

Your hosting skills are needed!

Refreshments after meeting for worship are provided by Friends on a rotating basis.

Please sign up with our new coordinators, Sarah and Elsa. Inquire at social hour or email sarahsupermodel@gmail.com.

Upcoming events, activities, & important dates

Coming to the Table (CTTT) NY Metro group
Saturday, February 8th, 10-12, and 12:30-2pm,
Bring Lunch
15th St Meetinghouse, Lounge

CTTT holds a monthly meeting to share stories and heal from the legacy of slavery. This is for descendants of enslaved people and descendants of slave holders, as well as people interested in beginning to eliminate white supremacy.

There will also be a week night meeting in Brooklyn, time and place to be announced. For more information contact Julie Finch. www.comingtothetable.org

NYYM Meeting For Discernment

Saturday, February 8 (snow date: Feb. 15)
Ithaca Meeting, 120 3rd St, Ithaca, NY 14850
Extended worship with Friends from across NY state, NJ and Connecticut to discern leadings and strengthen connections in our yearly meeting. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue into the afternoon with a break for lunch in the middle.

Interfaith Breakfast

Sunday February 9, 8:30 - 11:00 am
Flushing Friends Meetinghouse
137-16 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11354
You are invited to our next interfaith breakfast.
8:30am - Breakfast
9:00am - Prayers & Concerns
9:30am - Conversation on "Fit and Feisty at Any Age"
Please bring any prayers, concerns, poetry, songs (or food) you'd like to share. We'll supply the bagels and coffee.
Advance registration requested. John Choe, 646-783-8985

Brooklyn Friends Game Day!

Saturday February 22 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Brooklyn Friends Meetinghouse
110 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
212-777-8866

All are Welcome. Lunch is provided
Bring your favorite games & play new games
Questions? Email welcomingclerk@brooklynmeeting.org
Sponsored by Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Welcoming Committee

THE BIBLE AS A DOOR TO SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

March 20-22, 2020 (Friday to Sunday)
WOOLMAN HILL Quaker Retreat Center
107 Keets Road, Deerfield MA 01342
413-774-3431 info@woolmanhill.org

Facilitated by Peter Blood-Patterson and Adria Gulizia

An irrelevant old history book. Made-up myths and fairy-tales. A list of rules and regulations. A catalogue of atrocities. These are ways many Quakers today view the Bible.

But for early Friends like George Fox, Elizabeth Hooten and Mary Dyer, Christian scripture held the seeds of a new world order. As we explore a number of passages that were particularly important to early Quakers, we will seek ways to let the Spirit work in us to bring about courage, compassion and fresh spiritual life in our own hearts.

Sliding scale and scholarships available.



Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

AT THE FIFTEENTH STREET MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, HELD IN THE MEETING HOUSE AT 221 EAST 15th STREET, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ON A SUNNY SUNDAY, THE 12th OF JANUARY 2020, AT 1 PM:

During an opening time of quiet, the assistant clerk reads aloud the 12th advices and 5th queries from FAITH AND PRACTICE, a selection from Rex Ambler's THE QUAKER WAY on the conduct of business meetings, and this query, 'What holds you back from forgiving?' and Friends consider them in quiet.

2020-1-1: The clerk speaks about the items to come before us today and about plans for the Jubilee year.

2020-1-2: At the suggestion of the pastoral-care committee, we **appoint Deborah Dahl to the nominating committee** for her first term ending in 12-2022.

2020-1-3: At the suggestion of the nominating committee we hear a second reading of nominations and **appoint these Friends to these posts and committees** for the terms listed:

- Elizabeth Enloe - Ministry-and-worship committee, first full term ending 12-2022
- James Gowens - Pastoral-care committee, first term ending 12-2022
- Ann Kjellberg - Property committee, first full term ending 12-2022
- Ann Kjellberg - Religious-education committee, sixth term ending 12-2022
- Travis Combs - Religious-education committee, first term ending 12-2022
- Ann Kjellberg - Communications committee, second term ending 12-2020
- Steven Monroe Smith - Communications committee, second term ending 12-2020
- Sally Arteseros - Friends-in-unity-with-nature committee, twentieth term ending 12-2020
- Dorothea Coiffe-Chin - Greeting committee, first term ending 12-2020
- Sally Arteseros - Handbook-revision committee, third term ending 12-2020
- Ann Kjellberg - Liaison for child-care, fourteenth term ending 12-2020
- Julie Finch - Newsletter, third term ending 12-2020
- Margery Cornwell - Peace-and-social-justice committee, eighteenth term ending 12-2020
- Julie Finch - Peace-and-social-justice committee, ninth term ending 12-2020
- Sander Hicks - Peace-and-social-justice committee, second term ending 12-2020
- Steven Monroe Smith - Shelter committee, twenty-second term ending 12-2020
- Carol Summar - New York Quarterly Meeting Nominating committee, second term ending 12-2020

2020-1-4: The nominating committee also suggests **several names in first readings** for various post and committees:

- Matthew Bell - treasurer, first term ending 12-2020
- Anthony Shitemi - assistant treasurer, first term ending 12-2020

-Glenn Josey - clerk, third term ending 12-2020

2020-1-5: The clerk reads aloud announcements about the quarterly meeting next Sunday at Brooklyn and about the CQL potluck supper here on Wednesday, the 22d, at 6.30 PM.

THEN, AT 1.50 PM, with 16 present, ADJOURNED to meet at the usual time next month.

/s/ Glenn Josey, clerk

PRESENT, 1-2020: Richard Accetta-Evans, Nancy Adelman, Matthew Bell, Linda Hill Brainard, Margery Cornwell, Deborah Dahl, Elizabeth Enloe, M Julie Finch, Mary Grimes, Maureen Healy, Glenn Josey, John Maynard, Anthony Shitemi, Diana Smith-Barker, Ricardo Smith-Hoffman, Carol Summar, Elsa Wilson (17)



Open Invitation for Members of the
Religious Society of Friends to Join
Friends Seminary Meetings for Worship

Friends Seminary invites members of The New York Quarterly Meeting to join the school community as they gather together for a time of quiet reflection. An invitation is for the designated days listed below. Guests will need to present a **photo ID** at the Reception desk at the school's Main Entrance (222 East 16 Street) before proceeding to the Meetinghouse.

Lower School: every Wednesday, **8:40-9 a.m.**

Middle School: Wednesday, February 12, Wednesday, February 26, Monday, March 9, **9:00 - 9:25 a.m.**

Upper School: Mon., February 3, Thursday, February 13, Thursday, February 27, Tuesday, March 10, **9:30-10a.m.**

Poem of the Month

"Friends who know me and by now, those who have been reading my poetry selections for our newsletter, are aware that I feel a great connection to the non-human animal world. We are all horrified by the destruction caused by the fires in Australia. I cannot listen to the numbers telling us of the animals who have been destroyed. I give you a poem today about our interconnectedness."

- Margery Cornwell

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds,
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry



**Spiritual Gifts, the Beloved
Community, and Covenant**

A Pendle Hill Pamphlet by Emily Provance

For more than 85 years, Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat and study center near Philadelphia, has expanded understanding of Quaker life and witness through pamphlets and books. Their February 2020 pamphlet is by 15th Street Meeting's own member and travelling minister, Emily Provance. A copy will be available in the library. You can also order it, or subscribe to the series at <https://pendlehill.org/product/spiritual-gifts-the-beloved-community-and-covenant/>

Synopsis:

God speaks to all people and gives us all spiritual gifts – and yet these gifts are not all the same. We are organizers, pray-ers, workers, carers, innovators, provocateurs, and healers. Why? Because we're made to fit together like puzzle pieces, as we name, affirm, and nurture spiritual gifts and ministries. In the author's view, this fitting together is at the heart of what it means to be a covenant people, a people given to the care of one another and charged with building the kingdom of God on Earth. It's easy to settle for less than covenant; it's scary to stretch for the wholeness of God's promise. We, collectively, face a choice of who to be. A version of this pamphlet was given as the 2019 Weed Lecture at Beacon Hill Friends House in Boston. Discussion questions included.

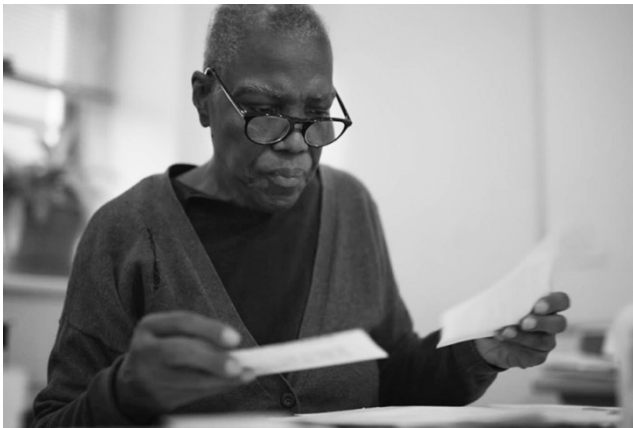
To see Emily's blog or sign up for her weekly email newsletter, go to quakeremily.wordpress.com and click on "Weekly Update."

Acting in Faith

Quakers Respond to Letters from People in Prison

By Beverly Archibald and James Shipside,
courtesy of American Friends Service Committee

Read, respond, fold, stamp, mail. This is how we answer the call for social justice. As members of the community of Friends, we knew that AFSC could help us fulfil that special type of quiet activism best suited for us as seniors, so we joined AFSC in accompanying those behind prison walls.



Beverly prepares a letter

Every year, AFSC receives thousands of letters from people in prisons, jails and detention centers across the country. The contents vary: Some are simply asking for reading material and other resources while others are complex and heart wrenching. A letter, from a person in Arizona, was filled with such anger and frustration, we struggled how to respond. After nearly three weeks of reflection we wrote back apologizing for our delayed response and giving the strongest words of comfort we could muster.

Another man wrote asking us to help him understand what the judge meant by “running his sentences consecutively” and, why people are telling him he had 224 years to go. With each letter, we gain more and more clarity into the harshness of America’s criminal justice system. We hear from teenagers, sentenced to 30 years to life, or, a man in his late 60s—with another 75 years to serve; men who have served 30-plus years already and

have been before the parole board six or more times only to be repeatedly denied.

We also realize that these people, fellow human beings, have lost contact with their families completely, so no visits, no letters, ever. Many are in solitary, for years, so one worries about their mental state. Some are on death row. All are lonely, very lonely.

And while some, understandably, are angry and bitter, most of them are apathetic, or simply, beaten. Many have sought comfort in religion. Many are grateful for any help we can offer, however slight. Many are resigned. Some have given up hope. They all have stories, but too often, the stories overlap—not being wanted, little education, poverty, abuse, a need to survive somehow.

But in the main, they are philosophical. Some are even cheerful. Was the man writing indignantly about the violation of his human rights—he said he couldn’t get a signal on his cell “phone!”—just pulling our leg? We may never know, but does it really matter?

One poignant letter that stuck us both was from a man who’d been in prison for over 20 years, and our letter to him was the first time his name had been lifted up at mail call. He shared with us that he now felt that he mattered.

As Friends, we are called to many kinds of service in the criminal justice system. Such service is undertaken in order to help heal all involved in community conflict while challenging the monster of mass incarceration and its many tentacles. In each letter we receive, we hear the harmfulness of the system and in each response, we strive to serve, consistent with our Quaker values and testimonies.

About the Authors

Beverly Archibald is a member of Manhattan Monthly Meeting since 2003 and has volunteered with AFSC as a letter writer and “camp mom” for 2 years.

James Shipside is a British Quaker and a member of Cambridge Meeting in the United Kingdom. He travels to the New York twice a year and shares his time volunteering with AFSC and attending Quaker meetings at Woodbourne Prison.



Upcoming Powell House Programs

Powell House is a Quaker retreat and conference center in Old Chatham, NY. Our mission is to foster spiritual growth after the manner of Friends and to strengthen the application of [Friends' testimonies](#) in the world. We offer programs for all ages.

Energy Work for Everyone

February 21-23

Rest deeply from the noise of the work, the cruelty of politics, and the disappointed longing for peace...Be restored for the coming year with the good tools of simple bodywork - energy work and easy clothes-on massage.

Facilitator **John Calvi** is a Quaker healer with a spiritual gift for releasing pain and a Certified Massage Therapist.

Building a Culture of Multi-age Inclusion

February 28-March 1

The spiritual principles of Quakerism are timeless and ageless, but our cultural practices often are not. We're in the habit of doing things certain ways, and sometimes, these habits make it tough for younger Friends—and, sometimes, for older Friends—to be full participants in our communities.

Presenter **Emily Provance** tries to see where the systems and practices that we have developed are supporting God's purposes and where those systems and practices might be getting in the way, across the the Religious Society of Friends.

For more information call Powell House 518-794-8811 or email for Adult Programs: sharon@powellhouse.org regina@powellhouse.org for Youth Programs: chrisandmike@powellhouse.org <http://www.powellhouse.org/>



Friends Committee on National Legislation

lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship.

To sign up for email action alerts, like the one below, go to www.fcnl.org/action/act-online

Actions You Can Take. Please Share with Friends!

1. Help discern FCNL's priorities for the 117th Congress. Visit fcnl.org/priorities.
2. Love and recruit thy young neighbor for Spring Lobby Weekend. Invite a young adult to join 500 peers at [FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend](#) to listen, learn, and act to address climate change (March 28-31 in Washington, D.C.). [Register here](#).
3. Encourage young adults to apply for FCNL's paid positions. Applications are open for the [Young Fellows program, summer internships, and Advocacy Corps organizers](#).

Admission to NYC Friends Schools

Friends Seminary and **Brooklyn Friends School** warmly welcome and strongly encourage children from all backgrounds to apply for admission. Our admissions policies give priority consideration to children of members of The Religious Society of Friends.

Families interested in considering these schools are urged to contact the respective Admissions Office as early as possible. Financial aid is available, K-12.

For more information, please contact: Harriet Burnett, Admissions Director, **Friends Seminary**, 222 East 16 St., NY NY, 10003, 212-979-5030, x141; hburnett@friendsseminary.org

Jennifer Knies, Admissions Director; Karen Luks, Preschool Admissions Director, **Brooklyn Friends School**, 375 Pearl Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718 852-1029 x229 or x240; jknies@brooklynfriends.org; kluks@brooklynfriends.org

1897

Penington Friend's House
Quaker housing



Multicultural community,
multi generational living
in New York City
for more information:
www.penington.org
Email: manager@penington.org

Submissions to the Newsletter

...should be sent to the editors, Julie Finch and Sabrina Jones, preferably by e-mail, *by the 15th day* of the month preceding publication. 15stnewsletter@gmail.com

TO CONTRIBUTE

to the financial support of the meeting:

- Use the envelopes in a basket in the common room.
- By check payable to 15th Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
- On line: at <http://fifteenth.quaker.org>/use a credit card or checking account. Donations are processed securely by Click&Pledge.

follow us!

15th Street Meeting on Facebook:
"Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting,
Religious Society of Friends"

15th Street Meeting Google Group
15thStreetFriends@googlegroups.com

Young Adult Friends Google Group:
15thStYAF@googlegroups.com

New York Quarterly Meeting on Facebook:
"New York Quarterly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends"

New York Quarterly Meeting on Twitter:
twitter.com/NYQMFriends

NYQM on Instagram: [nycquakers](https://www.instagram.com/nycquakers)

New York Quarterly Meeting calendar:
<https://www.nycquakers.org/events/>

15th Street Monthly Meeting

15 Rutherford Place, NYC 10003

(212) 475 0466

<http://quaker.org/legacy/15stfriends/>

Clerk: Glenn Josey

Assistant Clerk: John Maynard

Treasurer: Tony Shitemi

Assistant Treasurer: Jimmy Gowens

