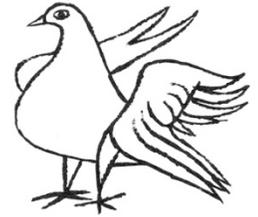


# Quaker

## N e w s l e t t e r



March 2020

15 Rutherford Place, (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aves at 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:brooklynprayerhealing@gmail.com)

#### 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

#### Every Wednesday at 7pm

##### **Meeting for Worship at Penington Friends House**

215 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, parlor.

This Quaker residential community invites all Friends to join a small meeting for worship. Please arrive by 7pm. Come up the stairs and ring the bell.

## 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**, *2<sup>nd</sup> floor Lounge*  
Everyone is welcome, no preparation needed.  
We are currently reading the Gospel of John.  
For more information: [sabjonze@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

1 p.m. **Friends in Unity with Nature**  
Meets at 15<sup>th</sup> Street in room 1.

### Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

6:30 p.m. **Women's Worship Sharing Group**  
*Room 3*  
Pot luck at 6:30pm, Worship Sharing 7 to 8PM

## Be a Host With the Most –

### Volunteer to Host Social Hour

It's a marvelous opportunity to **meet new people** and **build our community**. Hosting is also very **easy!**

To learn more about this super fun opportunity, contact Elsa Wilson ([elsawilsonesq@gmail.com](mailto:elsawilsonesq@gmail.com)) and Sarah O'Connell Vaishville ([sarahsupermodel@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsupermodel@gmail.com)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

In advance, we thank you for being fantastic hosts!

## 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)**

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

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:friendsshelter@gmail.com) or visit [friendsshelter.org](http://friendsshelter.org) for more information.

## ***Upcoming events, activities, & important dates***

### **Alternatives to Violence (AVP)**

#### **AVP Basic Workshop**

Lehman College, Bronx, NY

March 13-15, 2020

Friday, March 13: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 14: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 15: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

This three-day, experiential workshop creates brave spaces that allow us to discover the Transforming Power that each of us has within. Understand why conflict happens and practice responding nonviolently. For additional information and to register, contact David Fletcher at [davidcfletcher61@gmail.com](mailto:davidcfletcher61@gmail.com) [www.avpny.org](http://www.avpny.org)

### **Coming to the Table** (CTTT) NY Metro group

Saturday, March 14th, 10-12, and 12:30-2pm,

Bring Lunch

15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.comingtothetable.org)

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

As we explore and reflect on a number of Bible passages that were particularly important to early Quakers, we will seek ways to let the Spirit work in us – as God did in those first Friends - to bring about courage, compassion and fresh spiritual life in our own hearts.

Facilitated by Peter Blood-Patterson and Adria Gulizia  
Sliding scale and scholarships available.

### **Extended Meeting For Worship**

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 AM-noon

15<sup>th</sup> St Meetinghouse

Come for all or part of this extended worship, as the spirit leads you. We do this every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of this Jubilee Year. A pot-luck lunch will follow. New York Quarterly Meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> St Meeting are engaging in a year of Jubilee: a time of community-building, spiritual renewal, and celebrating That of God in each other.

### **New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions**

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5, 2020

Oakwood Friends School

[22 Spackenkill Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603](http://22SpackenkillRd.com)

Welcome to the 2020 NYYM Spring Sessions!

Friends from meetings across NY state and parts of NJ and Connecticut will gather and discern the business of New York Yearly Meeting on the beautiful campus of Oakwood Friends School. Spring Sessions begins with a Friday evening discussion on NYYM's 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme: "Embracing Our Past, Envisioning Our Future." On Saturday and Sunday we will conduct business, hold committee meetings, create community, and worship together. Attend for any part of the weekend that you wish. **[Registration is open!](#)**

Contact us at [spring-fall-sessions@nyym.org](mailto:spring-fall-sessions@nyym.org)

### **World Conference & Rally:**

**Abolish Nuclear Weapons;**

**Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis;**

**For Social and Economic Justice**

April 24 – 26th

The U.N. will consider the nuclear non-proliferation treaty at the end of April. On Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25 there will be a conference at Riverside Church that is organized by AFSC and many other ecological and faith-based organizations from NY, US and many countries, including Japan and Germany. The purpose is to increase awareness and support for continuing nuclear non-proliferation among all countries, especially US and Russia.

On Sunday April 25, there will be a march from Union Square to near the UN starting at 1pm.

For more information: see [worldconference2020.org](http://worldconference2020.org)  
or write: [JGerson80@gmail.com](mailto:JGerson80@gmail.com)

- Supported by 15<sup>th</sup> St Peace & Social Justice Committee



### Minutes of the February 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, NY, ON A PARTLY-CLOUDY SUNDAY, THE 9th OF FEBRUARY 2020, AT 1 PM:**

During and opening time of quiet, the assistant clerk reads aloud the 13th advices and the 6th queries from FAITH AND PRACTICE, a selection from Rex Ambler's THE QUAKER WAY, and this jubilee query: 'What can move you to forgive people whose beliefs are different from yours?' and Friends consider them.

2020-2-1: The clerk mentions the items to come before us in this meeting.

He also speaks about some plans for the jubilee year, extended meeting for worship (9.30 AM-noon) and pot-luck lunch on Sunday, the 29th of March, and the New York Quarterly Meeting to take place here on the 19th of April. The latter should include a community-building exercise that we would create with the Manhattan meeting along with a pot-luck lunch.

Dorothea Coiffe-Chin, Glenn Josey, and Julie Finch volunteer to help with the March 29th lunch. Glenn and Dorothea volunteer to help clean up after the quarterly-meeting lunch, and Steve M Smith and Julie Finch volunteer to help with the community-building exercise.

2020-2-2: In a letter, **Carmen Hendershott asks to become a member of this meeting**. The letter bears the Pastoral-Care committee's approval for forwarding to this meeting.

Friends approve the request and welcome Carmen Hendershott to be a member of the Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

We ask the clerk to furnish Carmen Hendershott a copy of this minute and the recorder to record Carmen Hendershott's name in the membership rolls of the meeting. We ask the recorder to inform the New York Yearly Meeting of our acceptance of this new member.

2020-2-3: In a letter, **Mary Grimes asks to become a member of this meeting**. The letter bears the Pastoral-Care committee's approval for forwarding to this monthly meeting.

Friends approve the request and welcome Mary Grimes as a member of the Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

We ask the clerk to furnish Mary Grimes a copy of this minute and the recorder to record Mary Grimes's name in the membership rolls of the meeting. We ask the recorder to inform the New York Yearly Meeting of our acceptance of this new member.

2020-2-4: The Pastoral-Care committee forwards this to us:

***Ellen Margaret Deegan, a member of the Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, passed away on November 24, 2019. Ellen Deegan was born on West 118th Street, New York City, on July 19, 1939, to James and Dorothy Deegan. Her mother, Dorothy Deegan, worked in the Office of Admissions at Friends Seminary in the 1960s-1970s in New York City. Ellen Deegan moved to Ohio, where her mother relocated after retirement, as her caretaker. Upon returning to New York, Ellen Deegan resided in Manhattan and later moved to Schervier Nursing Home, in Riverdale, New York. Members of our meeting are not familiar with Ellen. If anyone has any further knowledge of her or her family, please share this with us.***

We ask the recorder to furnish this notice to the New York Yearly Meeting.

2020-2-5: In a letter, **Michael Smith asks to transfer his membership** from this monthly meeting to the Wilmington Monthly Meeting, 401 north West street; Wilmington, Delaware 19801. The request bears



Witness 2,000. / 2,000.--  
Pastoral 957.03 / -0-

2020-2-9: For the Budget-and-Collections committee, Matthew Bell presents **Emily Provance's support committee's proposal for the meeting to provide \$5,000** to Emily Provance for her travel in the ministry this calendar year. Budget-and-Collections propose that over half of the money come from the monthly meeting's general funds in the 2019-20 fiscal year and the rest from the available money in the next fiscal year.

Sabrina Jones, on Emily's support committee, speaks about Emily's living and travel expenses in general.

Friends approve the request and ask the treasurer to furnish these funds to Emily Provance in instalments from this and next fiscal year's available funds.

We ask the Budget-and-Collections committee to plan on outlays of these amounts for the next fiscal years.

2020-2-10: For the Ministry-and-Worship committee, Richard Accetta-Evans reads aloud the **first draft of the state-of-the-meeting report for 2019**.

Friends speak about the draft and suggest some changes, and the Ministry-and-Worship committee ask Friends to send them any others.

They will bring their rewritings to us next month for our consideration.

2020-2-11: For the Handbook committee, Sally Arteseros and Linda Hill Brainard read aloud their **proposals for three monthly-meeting Handbook sections**: Budget-and-Collections committee, financial information, and use of the buildings.

Friends suggest some changes.

The Handbook committee ask Friends to send them suggestions and hope to present another draft of these sections next month.

2020-2-12: The clerk announces an open meeting this coming Thursday, the 13th, at 6.30 PM, in the Brooklyn meeting house, about the **Brooklyn Friends' School's recent firing of teacher Marna Merrity, a Brooklyn-meeting member**.

THEN, at 3.25 PM, with 16 present, ADJOURNED to meet next month at the usual time.

/s/ Glenn Joey, clerk

PRESENT, 2-2020: Sally Arteseros, Matthew Bell, Linda Hill Brainard, Dorothea Coiffe-Chin, Julie M Finch, Mary Grimes, Nancy Hadley-Jaffe, Maureen Healy, Carmen Hendershott, Sabrina Jones, Glenn Josey, Ann Kjellberg, Lorraine Krehling, John Maynard, Anthony Shitemi, Jackie K Shitemi, Steven M Smith, Diana Smith-Barker (18)



### 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](http://www.fcnl.org/action/act-online)

Since the 1600s, Quakers have worked to influence government. We encourage everyone to use this election year to talk to your neighbors about the priorities of our FCNL community and to reach out to candidates to ask them questions and influence their agendas. What these candidates hear during the election season will shape public policy for years to come.

Adding to these challenges, problems like voter suppression, the influence of money, and the polarization of the public debate, make campaigning difficult for those who participate. They drive more and more people to simply turn away from the political process. When people don't vote, our democracy is weakened.

Faithfully engaging candidates now helps put our issues on their radars and gives you an opening to follow up after Election Day, once successful candidates have turned to the business of governing.

The challenges facing our country won't be solved by one election — but the way you take part in our democracy during the 2020 elections makes a difference in how those problems will be solved.

For current election resources, visit [fcnl.org/elections2020](http://fcnl.org/elections2020)

## Quaker Women's History Month



Hannah Whitall Smith was a Quaker preacher who lived from 1832 to 1911. Here are two excerpts from letters this feisty woman wrote to her daughter.

- Margery Cornwell

London, Nov. 17, 1905

"...Thee need not feel the slightest delicacy about always telling me how B.B. feels. My experience of life has taught me to look upon the vagaries of the male portion of our race as one looks upon avalanches or earthquakes- things that cannot be stopped nor altered, but must simply have way made for them, with as little personal inconvenience to one's self as possible. And just as one would always be glad to know when avalanches or earthquakes are coming, so I always like to know what the men of my acquaintance feel about things, or what they want, in order that I may get out of the way."

Iffley, Dec. 14, 1909

"This sentence expresses my Theology in a few words: 'It is enough to know that God's responsibility is irrevocable, and His resources limitless.' This covers the whole ground of my heresies. By-the-bye, when I say it is foolish to try to be pious when God only wants us to be happy, I mean of course by pious that side of religion that consists in emotions, and pious feelings, and religious performance. I do not mean being good (*italics*). Good we must be, or we cannot be happy, but some of the very best people I know are not pious at all. They are just plain commonplace good (*italics*); and to be good is necessarily to be happy. There is no happiness in the world equal to the happiness of being good."

## 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.

### **Pie for Parents! Pi Day for kids!**

March 13-15, 2020

Two great conferences at the same time!

We will make pies, eat pies, play with numbers, play with friends and talk about what makes each of us feel well rounded. Like the mathematical "Pi", parenting just keeps on going on so we should make it fun, learn to play with that role, and occasionally have pie for breakfast.

### **Opening to the Heart of Worship**

March 20 – 22.

This retreat will focus on practices which can make us more ready to receive that blessed gift of powerful worship which can nurture, heal, and transform us and our lives, while drawing us closer together as a community. Facilitated by Christopher Sammond.

### **Creating in the Light: Creativity and Spirituality Retreat**

March 27-29.

If art leads you to a deeper spiritual journey or your spiritual journey leads you to be more creative or if you just want to explore the relationship between creativity and spirituality, this retreat is for you.

Facilitated by Gabi Savory-Bailey and Anne Pomeroy.

For more information call Powell House

518-794-8811 or email

for Adult Programs:

[sharon@powellhouse.org](mailto:sharon@powellhouse.org)

[regina@powellhouse.org](mailto:regina@powellhouse.org)

for Youth Programs:

[chrisandmike@powellhouse.org](mailto:chrisandmike@powellhouse.org)

<http://www.powellhouse.org/>

## Messages from a Travelling Minister

15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting is supporting our member Emily Provance with a travel minute as she follows the Spirit in connecting with, listening to, nurturing, and challenging Friends worldwide. Her website collects a wealth of her writing on topics such as:

- [Being Neighbors: Quaker Institutions and Quaker Meetings](#)
- Virtual Clerking
- Spiritual Gifts and the Beloved Community

To see these and much more on Emily's blog or sign up for her weekly email newsletter, go to [quakeremily.wordpress.com](https://quakeremily.wordpress.com)

To support Emily's ministry, contribute at <https://goodnewsassoc.org/donate/>



### 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:** Monday, March 9; Thursday, April 2; Tuesday, April 14; Friday, April 24. **9:00 - 9:25 a.m.**

**Upper School:** Tuesday, March 10; Friday, April 3; Wednesday, April 15; Monday, April 27. **9:30-10a.m.**

**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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:15thStreetFriends@googlegroups.com)

Young Adult Friends Google Group:  
[15thStYAF@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/NYQMFriends)

NYQM on Instagram: [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