

2007 ANNUAL SESSIONS ADVANCE INFORMATION

Saturday, August 4 – Thursday, August 9, 2007 • Bryant University, Smithfield, RI

Online Registration
at neym.org

ADVANCE PLANNING AND REGISTRATION

Deadline for advance planning is June 30, 2007.

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT, VCRs, DVD players, video projectors, computers, are available in most classrooms.

EQUALIZATION/FINANCIAL AID is available through the NEYM Equalization Fund. Applications for grants are on the registration form. Please complete all calculations and **GET YOUR MONTHLY MEETING CLERK'S SIGNATURE**, before sending your completed registration form to the NEYM Registrar postmarked on or before 6/30/07. Do not mail after July 28th. Contact Laurel Swan, NEYM Registrar, registrar@neym.org.

NO PETS PERMITTED on the Bryant College campus.

SALE AND CONSIGNMENT ITEMS will be located in the Bookstore. To sell items at the Bookstore, contact, Sandy Moyer, NEYM Bookstore Manager, 978/582-3300 • sjmoyer@juno.com.

SPACE FOR EXHIBITS/DISPLAYS AND ARTWORK must be requested by 6/30/07. Contact the NEYM Office, 901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • neym@neym.org.

SPECIAL MEETING ROOM ASSIGNMENTS are scheduled by the NEYM Office, 901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • neym@neym.org.

PLEASE BE FRAGRANCE FREE at NEYM Sessions. Chemical sensitivities make some Friends very ill when they are exposed to scented products. Please refrain from using personal care products such as scented lotions, hair gel or spray, scents, spray deodorants and dryer sheets.

Youth Programs Information

Each participant in all Sessions youth programs **must submit a Health Form to complete their registration**. All forms and registration information are available from the NEYM website, neym.org. Click on "Annual Sessions 2007," or contact the Registrar.

CHILDCARE for ages 4 & under is available in the mornings until 11:45 AM and afternoons until 5:00 PM. Drop-in orientation on Saturday is between 3:00 & 4:15 PM. Coordinator: Kimberly Burnworth Walker, 413/773-9081 • kbwalker@alumni.brown.edu.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (entering grades K–6) is a structured program of learning, fun, & friendships. Parents should not bring or send children unless they are prepared to participate in the program. Parents are responsible for their children during unscheduled periods. Parents & children orientation Saturday, 3:00 PM. Coordinator: Betty Ann Lee, 508/994-1638 • welees@comcast.net.

JUNIORHIGHERS (entering grades 7–9) program is similar to Junior Yearly Meeting, with additional activities. Parents & children orientation Saturday, 3:45 PM. Coordinator: Buddy Baker-Smith, 508/997-0940 • baker-smiths@prodigy.net.

YOUNG FRIENDS (entering grade 10 through 2007 high school graduates) have their own dorm & program, with some activities shared with the regular Sessions program. The Young Friends program requires adherence to rules, some mandatory participation, a signed parental permission slip, & an adult sponsor. Sponsor & Young Friend orientation Saturday, 3:00 PM. Coordinator: Kimberly Allen, 207/754-9353 • yf.yafcoord@neym.org.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS (YAFS) (ages 18–35) have daily worship-sharing and business meetings, with some evening interest groups or programming. If you are looking for a place to spend your free time or just want to check out the YAF scene, stop by the YAF lounge. Clerks: Cat Burgin, 978/263-8062 • cburgin@smith.edu and William Jennings, 978/495-1153 • will.jennings@gmail.com.

YEARLY MEETING OFFICE moves to Bryant University on Tuesday, 7/31/2007. Sessions NEYM Office phone at Bryant is 401/719-8860. For emergencies (24 hrs.) call Public Safety: 401/232-6001.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

➤ **MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM & ALL FEES**, checks payable to NEYM [minimum to register, **\$100 per form**—or, if less, your total fees] **TO:** Laurel Swan, NEYM Registrar, 29 Woods Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002 • registrar@neym.org. **A LATE FEE** of \$10 per individual up to a \$20 maximum per household **WILL BE CHARGED** for registrations postmarked **AFTER 6/30/07** (does not apply to commuters). **SEND NO MAIL AFTER JULY 28th**.

➤ CHECK-IN

8/4 **Saturday** (Hall 16 Lobby)10:00 AM — 5:00 PM
9:00 PM — 10:00 PM

8/5 **Sunday** (Hall 16, Room 308).....8:00 AM — 9:00 AM
1:00 PM — 5:00 PM
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

8/6–8 **Monday to Wednesday**9:30 AM — 10:30 AM
(Hall 16, Room 308) 4:30 PM — 5:30 PM
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

➤ **CHECK-OUT:** Drop keys in box (Info Desk at Rotunda or Hall 16 lobby)

➤ **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** Friends are encouraged to register online.

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS (see insert on colored paper)

ALL resident Sessions attenders must bring all bedding—blankets, pillows, sheets, and towels. Also bring reading lamps, napkins, & mugs.

Attenders: Complete all information requested for each attender.

Accessibility Needs: If you have any specific needs that we need to know about, please be certain to tell us in the space provided (see list of "Accessibility Needs" on the second side of the registration form).

Volunteer Choices: We urge each person to donate several hours in service to Sessions (see list of "Volunteer Choices" on the second side of the registration form).

Worship Sharing & Workshop Choices: Choose from among the listings found in this issue of *The New England Friend*.

Day of Arrival & Departure: In the columns provided, for each person enter the abbreviated (Fri, Sat, Sun, etc.) day of the week you plan to arrive and the day of the week you plan to leave.

LIMITED Camping This Year: Due to construction, Bryant University has marked only a few on-campus sites for our use. These sites will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bathrooms and showers will be available in an adjacent dormitory.

Part-time Commuter Meals: Meals may be purchased as you enter the dining hall.

CALCULATING FEES:

Line G: Subtotal, add amounts on lines A–F

Line H: Members of Permanent Board, Ministry & Counsel, Sessions staff, and their families may arrive between 8–10pm Friday night. Saturday breakfast & lunch included in price. Only members of Young Friends (YF) Ministry & Counsel may stay in the YF Dorm Friday night.

Line I: For a single room add \$35 per person for full-time participants or \$7/day for part-time.

Line J: Subtotal, add fees on lines G through I

Line K: Tax deductible contributions to the Equalization Fund are needed and gratefully accepted.

Line L: Enter a credit amount if you are receiving a room and board stipend for working as Sessions staff.

Line M: Grand total, add and/or subtract lines J through L. After 6/30/07, add late fee of \$10 per individual up to a maximum of \$20 per form (does not apply to commuters).

Line N: \$100 (or, if less, your total fees) is the minimum amount to enclose or pay by credit card with this form and is not refundable.

Balance Due: Calculate the amount of money due upon arrival.

ONLINE REGISTRATION, INFORMATION AND FORMS are available at neym.org, or contact the NEYM Registrar, registrar@neym.org

Call to Yearly Meeting Sessions 2007

Photo: Courtesy FWCC

Dearly Beloved Friends...

Christopher McCandless, New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Presiding Clerk

Lord, prepare me
to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy,
tried and true.
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

Photo: Karen Sanchez-Eppler



Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

Bonnie Norton, Sessions Committee Clerk

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, a member of Northampton (MA) Monthly Meeting, will give the Bible Half-Hour talks. Born in Cuba, Benigno left in 1967 with his family, first to Ecuador and later to Miami. He found Friends in the early 1980s where he has joyfully drafted minutes, gathered the sense of the meeting, driven children to retreats, stood at vigils, cooked for Friends, cared for the loves of all manner of couples, taught young people. He has interpreted for FWCC, and helped build one meetinghouse and one bridge of love from Cuba Yearly Meeting to New England.



Duduzile Mtshazo of Southern Africa Yearly Meeting will give the keynote address, Sunday morning, 8/5/07. Duduzile is the Presiding Clerk of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. She leaves our annual sessions for the 22nd FWCC Triennial to be held in Dublin, Ireland.

Call to Yearly Meeting Sessions 2007: "Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary" (continued)

potentially divisive concerns around NEYM's relationship with Friends United Meeting. It is hoped that by having this time on the weekend, more Friends will be able to participate in the discussion.

When we talk about a summer vacation bargain, of course that is relative. For some Friends the cost is quite dear, but we cannot emphasize enough that no Friend need be frightened away from attendance for financial reasons. Our Equalization Fund pays up to 75% of registration and room and board fees for those who apply by the deadline of June 30th. Ask your monthly meeting clerk about this. Those of you who can afford it are invited to donate to the Equalization Fund by adding some extra dollars to your check when you register.

When filling out the registration form, be clear about any special needs that you have—if you prefer air-conditioning or not (most dorm rooms are air-conditioned), if you have mobility problems, sensitivities to chemical or other substances, or would like to be located near certain friends. Please complete your registration as early as possible. The Registrar can much more easily make changes

before Yearly Meeting begins, if something comes up. Registering on-line, if you have the capacity to do that, is always appreciated. Read the form carefully before you mail it in. If you misplace it, you can find it on the Yearly Meeting website, neym.org. We also urge you to sign up to volunteer on the registration form, as there are a wide range of volunteer opportunities available. Volunteering can be particularly satisfying for new attenders—it's a great way to meet people as well as to do something for the general good.

This year our keynote speaker is Duduzile Mtshazo, Clerk of Friends World Committee on Consultation and a native of South Africa. She has been an important force in peace and reconciliation initiatives in Africa. As we seek ways to "prepare ourselves to be sanctuaries for God" and to be part of healing our world and our nation, we look forward to learning from her wisdom. Our Bible Half-Hour leader will be our own Benigno Sanchez-Eppler of Northampton Meeting. The topic of sanctuary will be explored through various Biblical references. God willing, we will see you in August!

Sessions Announcements

A Celebration of Quaker Witness

Let's measure the wingspan of our witness as a yearly meeting! Join the NEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee at 3:30pm on Sunday 8/5/07 for a joyful and inspiring look at our accumulated push toward peace and justice as Friends in New England. Meetings, Quaker schools and organizations are invited to assemble a display of the variety of forms that their witness has taken this year. Include pictures of your vigils, marches, and service projects. Bring your minutes and letters to newspapers. Fill us in on your prison ministry and Earthcare witness. Show us how you speak for racial justice, fair housing, immigration rights, and gay rights. This is a great chance to showcase a First Day School peace vigil or service project. Let's celebrate all of the forms that our Quaker Light and love have taken beyond the walls of our meetinghouses this year. Contact: Ian Harrington, 508/655-6632 • owli@comcast.net or Beth Collea, 781-784-3471 • BethCollea@aol.com

Afternoon Choices Coord. sought

Afternoon Choices is an activity program for children in Junior Yearly Meeting, grades K-6, that occurs under the dining tent from 1:15 to 4:30pm on Sunday through Wednesday afternoons. Children whose parents have committee meetings can stay until 5:30. Responsibilities of the Coordinator include: planning activities for Afternoon Choices, purchasing supplies as needed, helping to select and supervise an Assistant Coordinator and two Junior Staff, soliciting and supervising parent volunteers, planning for snack

time, signing children in and out of the program, and inviting other adults to provide special activities. The Coordinator receives a \$200 stipend and room and board at YM Sessions. Contact Peter Colby, 978/549-4406 • Peter@pmcolby.net

EQ Fund, call for support

The Equalization Committee is a committee, which has as its mission or purpose to ensure that Friends and attenders who need financial help in order to attend NEYM get that help. As a recipient of the Equalization Fund for years, I can tell you that I could not have attended, grown spiritually, and made contributions to the YM Sessions over the past years as a Friend of color without this fund.

The fund is a lifeline to many individuals and families who could not attend YM Sessions without the financial help. Please check to see if your meeting has made a donation to the Equalization fund this year. If not, ask your meeting to do so as soon as possible and please be sure that your meeting includes an annual contribution to the Equalization Fund in your giving to the Yearly Meeting. Individual contributions are also welcomed.

I wish to update you at this time about our Committee. We are at the present time a small committee having lost members due to term expiration, moving out of the area, overload and burn out. However, we do still exist as a committee. We are looking at possibly becoming a part of Sessions Committee.

Photo: Minga Claggett-Borne



A Friendly meal at the 2006 NEYM Annual Sessions

We want to ensure that the Equalization Fund is available in the future for those who can not attend NEYM without help. The future of the NEYM Equalization Committee will be decided at NEYM in August. Thank you for helping with the Equalization Fund, and please hold us in the light.

—James Varner, Clerk EQ Committee

Bookstore sales & consignment items

Anyone who would like to sell items in the Bookstore at YM Sessions should make arrangements by the end of July. A variety of items are sold, including Quaker books, Friendly crafts, and items from Quaker organizations. You will receive a number with which to mark your items. Friends are reminded that all sales at YM Sessions must go through the bookstore, with the exception of sales of study materials at workshops. The bookstore retains 15% of gross sales to cover the expenses of running the bookstore, including charge card fees, shrinkage, supplies, and staffing expenses. Contact Sandy Moyer, 978/582-3300 • sjmoyer@juno.com