



2017 FGC Gathering

A week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages.

July 2 to 8, 2017

Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York



Blessed Community

FGC Gathering intends to be a blessed community where all feel welcomed and affirmed. Yet, we can easily hurt people in our first encounters. Based on years of input from Gathering attenders, we offer these queries and advices so that we can work toward building a more just, inclusive and cohesive community.

Let our good intentions to speak and behave lovingly with one another be balanced with a sensitivity and openness to understand if our words or actions have caused harm. Let us be open to learning about our differences. Let us be slow to defend our good intentions and slow to impose our unspoken invisible norms on those around us, when we hear someone is hurt, angered, or upset by our words or deeds.

Be gently welcoming in your words and actions. Not everyone at Gathering welcomes physical contact – ask before hugging or touching. Let us be more explicit about the breadth, depth and diversity of the Beloved Community that comes together at Gathering, modeling our Quaker acceptance that bridges all divides between class, ability, gender, sexual orientation, and other identities.

Let's honor each other by engaging fully, by listening openly, and approaching one another without preconceptions.

Today's Query:

How are you cultivating patience towards each other, towards yourself? –Kody Hersh

Questions about gender identity, unasked-for advice about personal parenting choices, questions about a disability, requesting forgiveness for your family's racial prejudice: these can create an unwelcoming environment.

Don't assume anything about a person's racial identity, country of origin, sexual orientation or gender, or how long they've been a Quaker. Do ask, once you have gotten to know someone, if you are genuinely interested.

Let's celebrate what connects us as Quakers. As an initial conversation with strangers, here are some suggestions for getting-to-know-you questions: Which workshop are you taking? Tell me about where you live and your meeting. What do you like to do for fun?

From the co-facilitators of the Gathering for Fellowship for European Americans Addressing Racism, a daily drop-in experience. 4:30 - 5:30, St. Vincent's 301.

Today's Events

Earth Quaker Action Team

1:30-2:30, St. Vincent 209

Earth Quaker Action Team is in the second year of its current campaign: Power Local Green Jobs. We just completed a 100 mile walk for green jobs and justice in the Philadelphia area. Come hear an update about this campaign and find out about our history and our significant successes. Ask questions. Find out how you can support us whether or not you live in Philadelphia.

Pendle Hill

3:15-4:15, St. Vincent 307

Located on 24 tranquil acres, Pendle Hill is a Quaker center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning, retreat, and community. We offer a dedicated and friendly staff, extraordinary hospitality, rich and varied opportunities for seeking, and a lovely wooded setting. Pendle Hill's vision, "to create peace with justice in the world by transforming lives," is moved forward in worship, presentations, weekend workshops, retreats, short courses, and remarkable conversations.

Friends Journal

1:30-2:30, St. Vincent 307

Friends Journal is growing the audience for Quakerism. We're using video and social media to nurture and educate new generations of seekers. We stand for Quaker values in a changing world. Join a discussion about how you can do the same. Let's talk story-telling, social media, and video production.

Quaker Institute for the Future

3:15-4:15, St. Vincent 109

The mission of Quaker Institute for the Future is to advance a global future of inclusion, social and economic justice, and ecological well being through participatory research and discernment. QIF hosts a Summer Research Seminar, sponsors Circles of Discernment, and publishes Focus Books on critical topics for the future of life on Earth.

Quaker Initiative to End Torture--QUIT!

1:30-2:30, St. Vincent 109

The Quaker Initiative to End Torture - QUIT! - is the work of Friends to end the worst humans do to one another. John Calvi will share a bit of history and the current situation. The worst stories will not be told. Please come and learn how American torture is constructed and can be dismantled.

Friends Fiduciary

3:15-4:15 St. Vincent 209

Friends Fiduciary is a Quaker non-profit, socially responsible investment firm exclusively serving Quaker meetings, churches, schools and organizations across the country. Kate Monahan, Shareholder Advocacy Associate, will talk about socially responsible investing as well as shareholder engagement, including how Friends Fiduciary brings a Quaker voice to Wall Street and encourages companies to improve their environmental, social, and governance practices.

Future of Quakerism

3:15-5:30, St. Vincent 211

What is your vision for Quakerism in 30 years? How can we get there from here? How do we create the community we want? What material and spiritual supports are needed? How do we share the Quaker path and message with all people?

School of the Spirit Ministry

4:30-5:30, St. Vincent 109

The School of the Spirit Ministry serves all those who wish to be more faithful listeners and responders to the work of the Inward Teacher. The ministry is grounded in prayer and offers programs rooted in the Quaker contemplative tradition of the living silence. Our primary program, On Being a Spiritual Nurturer, has 3 core teachers and will seek participants beginning September, 2018.

Nurturing Worship, Faith and Faithfulness

1:30 St. Vincent's 210

Hear about the nine month program at Woolman Hill--Spiritual deepening, courageous faithfulness, support for witness.

Family Place

1:30-4:30 Academic 130

We have blocks, legos, knitting looms and potholder looms, as well as balls and books available for borrowing.

Today's FP Activities

1:30 worship-sharing for parents with attention to hopes and plans for the week.

3:15 bubble-printing with Zan Lombardo, Junior Gathering artist in residence.

Golf Cart Training

1:30 Academic 220

Welcome, Welcome!

Outdoor Yoga All Week

7-8am O'Shea Lawn

Yoga, stretching, and meditation for everyone. Please bring a towel or mat. Requests for practices accepted.

12 Step Business Meeting

4-4:30 Dunleavy 208

Open AA Meeting

4:30 Dunleavy 208

Announcements

Tray-Free Dining

Niagara University has a tray-free dining hall. This helps us be mindful eaters by conserving water, reducing labor, and minimizing food waste. Tray carriers are available for folks who need assistance.

Travel Minutes

Friends with Travel Minutes wishing to have them endorsed should leave them at the Information Desk before Wed. 2pm, and pick them up on Thurs. after 2pm.

Maintenance Requests

Please take maintenance requests to the FGC Information Desk in Gallagher.

Carrying Food Out from Dining Hall

Friends are welcome to carry a piece of fruit or dessert out of the dining hall to continue enjoying at the end of the meal. Please do not take extra tea bags, heaps of fruit, or other "snacks for later." Tea bags are available for purchase at the Gallagher convenience store.

First-Time Attenders Tables

Get to know other first timers by sitting at the designated tables near the outside windows of the Dining Hall. Second timers and long timers are always welcome to share conversation.

From the NU Administration

1. Please refrain from driving any vehicles on sidewalks and walkways.
2. Please use the campus safety phone number of (716) 286-8111 for emergency calls ONLY. There is a main office number for the Gathering for any questions regarding the conference.
3. Please DO NOT fly any kites near the Power Vista. This is a highly restricted governmental area. There are walking paths for your pleasure. Please abide by the signs of no trespassing.
4. If you are parking in the O'Shea Lot, make sure to stay within the lines so the dumpster truck can get through.
5. Please refrain from parking near the Vincentian Residence or behind Lynch, and in any fire lanes, otherwise, you will be ticketed. Please no hammocks and respect their space.
6. For those of you interested in hiking, there is a foot path across Rte. 104 that takes you down to the Niagara Gorge. Please be advised that all minors are required to be accompanied by their parents or other responsible adults, and that swimming is prohibited (given a very strong current).
7. Just a reminder that the smoke and heat detectors are VERY sensitive. Any hair sprays or steam will trigger the alarm and the building will have to be evacuated.
8. Anybody needing help with directions, please look for any of the staff in purple shirts.
9. A discounted rate of \$5.00 per person, per day is available for anyone interested in using the Kiernan Recreational Center Please pay as you enter with the person at the desk.

Support FGC

How do YOU support FGC? We want to know...by seeing your selfies! Visit the FGC table in front of the Gathering Store to find out how you can share your support of FGC with the world of Friends through social media.

Message Boards

Message boards are in Gallagher lower level by the Gathering Office. Please leave messages for Friends under the first letter of their last name.

Lend-A-Hand Sign-Up

We need volunteers to make our Gathering accessible. We count on everyone who is able to sign up for 2 hours of volunteer work. Sign up in Gallagher Lower Level at the Lend-A-Hand table.

Golf Cart Requests

The number to request a golf cart on the map and campus notes is incorrect – it should be 716-336-0986.

O'Shea Lot and Parking Issues

Please move cars to the area with yellow lines, leaving room for Friends with Priority Parking needs in the white lined parking area.

Daily Bulletin

An online version of The Bulletin can be accessed at: www.fgcquaker.org/blog.

► Online Submissions (Preferred)

Online submissions can be made by: 1) accessing the submission form at: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/daily-bulletin-announcement-submission-form>, or 2) by sending an email (include a contact phone number) to gathbulletin@gmail.com.

► Paper Submissions

Paper submission forms can be filled out and left at the info desk in Gallagher.

Submission deadlines are 4 pm on Monday and 2 pm Tuesday thru Thursday. Those received after the deadline may not be included.