Dear Friends,

This has been a long time coming. It feels that we’ve been planning to host the FGC Gathering in Virginia for a loooong time. And now, at last, through many twists and turns, we will soon gather as an intergenerational Quaker community in-person together in Radford.

My family is from the Shenandoah Valley, just a few hours north of Radford. I grew up spending summers with my grandparents along the Blue Ridge Mountains—swimming in the river, picking berries, making fresh ice cream and eating my first wild foods. It is very special to me to host YAY Gathering in this part of the world, which is an extended home to me. Western Virginia is home to my inner child—and so it feels good to welcome Young Friends & children to play, worship, and make memories here.

Very soon we will join together as Parents, Children, Youth & Adult Young Friends in Radford, VA. I am so excited for the community we will find, the community we will co-create and to the transformation we are unveiling—both within ourselves, within FGC and within the larger world. It’s been a long time coming, but at last, we are here.

With love,
Marian Dalke, Gathering Youth Coordinator

On behalf of the YAY Gathering Sub-Committee
Brittany Koresch, Chelle Riendeau, Colby Abazs, Dannah Card, Ella Frey, Evan Sidener, Franklin Crump, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Karen Stewart, Kri Burkander & Laura Pickering—Ford
**Staff – Who to know**

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**Important Info**

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- Campus Locations  Page 5
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- Policies  Page 10
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**Important links**

- YAY Frequently Asked Questions
- What is the YAY Gathering?
- YAY Gathering schedules
- Preparing for Junior Gathering webpage
- Junior Gathering Webpage
- High School Webpage
- Adult Young Friends webpage
- Adults Friends Info (Parents & sponsors)
- Radford Campus Info
- Radford Campus Map
- COVID Safety at YAY

More info online at: www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/yay

**YAY Gathering Offers:**

- **Group sessions** for children, youth, young adults, and parents/sponsors/volunteers to engage in art, music, and spiritual exploration.
- **Intergen activities:** We will open each morning together in worship and play, learn & explore together in the afternoons.
- Join us Saturday for an All-Ages Block Party & Talent Show!
**YAY Gathering**
**July 6-10, 2022**

**Friends General Conference**
**Summer 2022**

**Junior Gathering Groups:**
- Acorns – Muse 2A
- Sprouts – Muse 2B
- Pine Trees – Muse 3A
- Oaks – Muse 3B
- JG Office – Muse 3C
- Family Time – Heth 014

**Program Information**

**Junior Gathering Hours:**
Wednesday afternoon we begin with **Open House**
before the Opening Welcome @ 5:30
(Except Oaks & HS – see below)

**Junior Gathering Morning Program:**
9:30 am-12:00 noon – Thurs – Saturday

**Junior Gathering Acorns Afternoon:**
1-4:30 pm Thursday – Saturday

**Junior Gathering Evening Program:**
7:30-9:30 pm – Thurs & Friday

No Junior Gathering Evening Program on Saturday for the Talent Show

The HS Program is 24-7.
HS participants are expected to check-in daily with their parent/sponsor.

**Open House**
4:30 PM Wednesday July 6

Open house is for parents, sponsors, and all children from newborns to those entering 5th grade in the fall. Learn about our groups: **Acorns, Sprouts, and Pine Trees!**

**Mandatory Oaks & HS Orientations**
8:00 PM Wednesday July 6

Oaks in Heth 043

High School in Heth 014

Every Oak and HS participant and at least one of their parents/sponsors are required to attend an orientation. This is a time for parents, sponsors, and youth to work together to set expectations for the week that are consistent among families. At this Orientation, staff will also go over the ground rules, review health forms, and answer questions.
Intergen Activities
All Age Events from 4-6 pm
Thursday—Saturday
Meet at the Tent by Heth Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kickball</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Sprinklers &amp; Super Bubbles</td>
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<td>Storytime</td>
<td>Oral History Workshop</td>
<td>Photo Booth</td>
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<td>Movement &amp; Games</td>
<td>Acro yoga &amp; Dance</td>
<td>Community Mural</td>
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Thursday: Story Time with the People of Color Center!
Zoom into the 2022 Virtual Gathering for this beloved event! Come hear several Friends read stories aloud from children’s books read to people of all ages, races, and ethnicities from books about and by People of Color.

Friday: Oral History Workshop with Calfee Cultural Center!
More on page 7!

Saturday: Block Party!
Sprinklers & Super Bubbles, Photo Booth, Community Mural

Do you have a skill you want to share with the YAY Community? Offer it up at Intergen Time!

Creative Praxis: Anti-Racism & Liberation Training for High School Program
At its business meeting in 2020, the FGC High School community made a decision to create a mandatory event for the community where an outside skilled leader gives the group PRACTICAL skills on addressing racism inside and outside of Gathering. FGC is thrilled to partner with Creative Praxis, an art-based youth-based training organization. Learn more about Creative Praxis at www.creativepraxis.org.

“Creative Praxis is dedicated to doing this healing work. We are committed to not only working with young people, but also to being intentional about working with educators, counselor, parents, and people in positions of power.

We want to encourage people to take a moment and breathe and wrap some compassion and love around yourself. Oftentimes we talk about self care on a surface level, and we must go so much deeper.

For our young people, this means speaking explicitly about the spaces they need in order to heal, where they can reclaim their power as individuals and collectives. But first, we must stop. Breathe. Feel.”

-From Creative Praxis June 2022 Newsletter
TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YAY GATHERING FOR YOUR FAMILY
With lots of choices for youth and parents, stopping to think about what we actually need can sometimes take a backseat.

- **Plan** your day to meet the needs of your family for play, food, rest, worship and water!
- **Pause** between activities to allow space for wonderful ‘coincidences’ to occur.
- **Ponder** our theme “Center together...and follow me.” and what it means for your week at YAY Gathering.
- At the end of each day, check in with one another and see how things went. Does tomorrow’s plan need to be adjusted based on today?

**Gettting Ready for 2022 JUNIOR GATHERING**

- Complete a parental release form
- Consider the Queries below
- Pack your bag!
- Read your Coordinator Letter
- Practice your performance for the Talent Show on Saturday 7/9!

**Community Queries**

We ask all staff, children, and youth in FGC programs to reflect on these queries to build awareness and strengthen community responsibility:

1. How do we create a loving environment in which deep connection can arise while we maintain the safety and nurture the growth of everyone involved?
2. How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?
3. How are we caring for and attending to the needs of the youth of Color in our programs?
4. When considering something you might do or say, ask yourself:
   - Does it nurture myself?
   - Does it nurture the group?
   - Does it nurture the YAY Gathering community as a whole?

If the answer is “no” to any of these questions you probably shouldn’t do what you were thinking of.

**PHOTO OPT-OUT POLICY**
Complete [this form](#) ONLY if you do NOT give permission for your photo, audio, or video to appear in possible FGC publications or publicity, including printings, social media, or the website. This opt out MUST be accompanied by a current photo of the individual.

**YAY GATHERING EXPECTATIONS**

1. Each participant is expected to treat all persons at Gathering with respect.
2. Each participant is expected to respect the confidential space of FGC Programs and protect the personal stories of all participants. “What’s learned here may leave here, what’s said here stays here.”
3. Harassment and bullying of any kind will not be permitted at the Gathering. This is not only a Youth Program guideline, but a Gathering Expectation as well.

**HELMET POLICY**
Bicycle riders of all ages are **required to wear helmets.** Pedestrians have the right of way and are not to be threatened with collision. Bicycles must be chained to bike racks when not in use.

**Room Keys:** Each adult will receive a swipe card for their dorm hall and a room key.

**Laundry:** Laundry facilities are available in Tyler dorm. The Gathering will provide fragrance-free laundry detergent. Please leave electronic devices in your rooms. We want you to be fully present for programs!

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

During program time, children must either be in their groups, with an adult, or in their room. No Junior Gathering participant may walk around campus on their own during Morning or Evening Program times.

To ensure the safety, well-being, and comfort level of everyone, these procedures must be followed:

**For newborns to those entering 6th grade this fall:**
Parents/Sponsors must sign these children in and out of morning and evening groups daily. Children in these groups who do not arrive for their group will be missed but we will not search for them.

**For youth entering 7th, 8th and 9th grade this fall (Oaks):**
Starting Wednesday evening with a parent or sponsor’s written permission these young Friends may sign themselves in and out of group time.

We will search for Oak Participants who have been given permission to sign themselves in and do not show up!! This may mean interrupting a parent or sponsor’s workshop.

Parents or sponsors must inform staff if a child in this group is not going to Junior Gathering that day.
FGC’s COVID Pandemic Health & Safety Policy is intended to break the spread of the virus and to provide a safe and joyous environment for all to live, work, worship, and play together.

**AFTERNOON FAMILY TIME**  
1:30-4 pm - Meet up in Heth 014

This is a time for parents & their children in Sprouts, Pine Trees & Oaks to be together. Junior Gathering will suggest field trips, activities, and stories during this time which parents and sponsors can self organize.

Acorns (birth- age 5) staff will be available to care for children during this session. Acorns parents can attend afternoon Adult Young Friends sessions, virtual workshops, or rest.

**Local Destinations for Family Time:**
- Christiansburg Aquatic Center
- Claytor Lake
- Wildwood Park
- SELU Conservancy

**Faith & Play Stories:** Spiritual Formation through Storytelling  
Stop by the FGC Bookstore in Heth 043 during Intergen Time to peruse the bookstore and learn about the Faith & Play series!

**Walking Cheerfully:** A website to support families’ home spiritual practices created by Junior Gathering staff member Elizabeth Freyman.
COLORING PAGES

The 2022 YAY Logo was designed by artist Naima Dalke Gupta.
Naima is an 11-year old living in Brooklyn, New York. Naima loves reading and writing. She became involved with FGC Youth Programs during the pandemic.

The YAY Logos are based on the 2022 Gathering design by TJ Mundy, Loving You Quietly.

The 2022 HIGH SCHOOL YAY Logo was designed by artist Joey Hartmann-Dow of Us & We art.
Joey is an Adult Young Friend from Pennsylvania and based in New Orleans. Joey explores themes of connection, vulnerability, gender and earth relationship. Find more art from Joey at usandweart.com
Center together

When Quakers gather in worship, they focus on an inward center to still their mind and connect to the divine presence around them. They also center with everyone else in the room and connect to the community around them.

Be still.

*How do you center yourself?*

Write or draw about it here.

...and follow me.

“Center together...and follow me.” is the theme for the 2022 YAY Gathering. YAY is an event that centers Young Friends, Adult Young Friends, Families & Children.

How do you lead?

How do you follow?
Local Connections

MONACAN INDIAN NATION

The New River Valley home is the ancestral home of the Tutelo Nation, one of many Siouan language tribes. Due to colonization by European settlers, the Tutelo migrated north and were adopted by the Cayuga nation, and later moved to Canada. Some Tutelos joined the Monacan Indian Nation, located nearby in Amherst County, VA. The Monacans are one of the few American Indian Nations that remain on their ancestral homeland—throughout almost 400 years of colonization. The Monacan Nation is a federally recognized tribe with a local community center, annual Powwow and Museum. They recently won a victory by protecting their traditional capitol Rassawek from development by the James River Water Authority.

By hosting the YAY Gathering in Radford, FGC acknowledges and honors the ancestral lands of the past, present, and future Tutelo & Monacan people who are the original inhabitant of the New River Valley.

Visit the Monacan Nation website: www.monacannation.com

Friday Intergen Activity

Oral History Training with Calfee Cultural Center

Come learn about and from an important community organization in Pulaski, VA.

From 1894 to 1966, the Calfee Training School educated African American children in Pulaski, VA. Faced with severe underfunding from Jim Crow segregation, the Calfee Training School became a community, helping children and their families reach their full potential. The future Calfee Community & Cultural Center will revitalize the positive aspects of this legacy, by supporting all of Pulaski County’s children, families, and organizations building a stronger future for the region.

Visit the Calfee Cultural Center website: https://calfeeccc.org/

YAY Gathering Crossword

Get hype for YAY! Answer this cross word using information from this newsletter

ACROSS
1. Name of Radford dorm where Junior Gathering groups meet
3. Party on Saturday afternoon at YAY
5. ____Cultural Center was previously an African American vocational school
6. Radford is located in the_______ Valley.
8. First name of YAY Friend in Residence
11. Acronym for Adult Young Friends
13. Name of mountains in Western Virginia

DOWN
2. Quakers worship together in_______
4. Name of High School Program’s anti-racism training, Creative_______
6. First name of YAY logo design artist
7. Name of university that hosts YAY
9. Name of Indigenous People original to the New River Valley
10. Religious Society of ______, or Quakers
12. “Center together...and_______me.”
Now...
FOLLOW ME! To the Center of the Maze!

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