



The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education
& Family Resources



Dear Friends,

Content for this issue of the Tote Bag has been accumulating on my laptop, much like my actual canvas tote bag is overflowing at this point in the summer with books and resources I've collected to help plan the children's program at meeting this fall.

But the coming year in our meetings and religious education programs is not going to be the same. As meetings begin to consider how and when to return to in-person worship, those of us involved in religious education ministry are wondering how children and youth programs will resume — and perhaps might work in new ways. I've heard from Friends about their creative, community-focused support for families this summer: care packages, phone calls, porch visits, sending notes, and mailing projects to families. Some meetings have found ways to gather outside, and others continue with online programs.

I'd like to offer three resources as we find our way forward, together:

- **[Fall Religious Education Planning: Connection and New Directions](#)** describes possibilities during this uncertain time. How can we stay tethered to families and center their needs, balance flexibility in program planning, and turn in new directions focused on experiential learning and community? *I'm excited about an idea you'll find in the article: a monthly "Giant Children's Meeting" this fall, hosted online by PYM staff and volunteers!*
- An updated [Planning Calendar for First Day Programs 2020-21](#)

- **Conversation Circles** later this month are an opportunity to bring together the wisdom of our PYM RE community of practice. What questions are you holding? How are you finding new ways to nurture the faith and life of Quaker families at the local meeting level? **See registration below.**

I look forward to crossing the threshold into autumn together. Stay in touch!

In friendship,

Melinda

Conversation Circles: Fall Religious Education Planning

Join in listening and discussion with others carrying a concern for children and youth programs in meetings.

Tuesday, August 25 at 2:00 PM (ET) register [HERE](#)

Wednesday, August 26 at 8:00 PM (ET) register [HERE](#)



PYM Programs for Youth & Families

We had a wonderful time together at **Annual Sessions!** Read about it on the PYM website:

[**We Are . . . PYM Youth!**](#)
[**Youth Programs Epistles 2020**](#)

The Youth Programs Calendar for Fall 2020 will be available in early September and will include events for Children & their Families, Middle School Friends, and Young Friends.

In the meantime, we're sending you a . . .



Youth Workshop Opportunities!

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE! Led by Mai Spann-Wilson, MSW
An opportunity for parents and their children to learn together! **Saturdays, July 25 to August 15 (the program has begun, but new participants may join).** Upon request, PYM will cover a third of the cost of a household's registration. **Download the flyer and SHARE!**

From Interfaith Philadelphia: August 17-21, for rising 6th-9th grade students living in Philadelphia, **Mosaic** is a free, week-long, online morning program that celebrates the beauty of each individual's identity and the richness of diversity. The program will feature virtual games, activities, interfaith experiences, and arts workshops online, plus a special arts and activities kit created for each youth participant.



Letting Our Lives Speak: Advocacy Camp for Youth

"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers" - Bayard Rustin

Hosted by Beacon Hill Friends House and Friends Meeting at Cambridge (New England YM) -- Thursday, August 20 and Friday, August 21 -- A free, 2-afternoon virtual advocacy camp for rising 6th-12th grade youth. will focus on issues around Black Lives Matter and Climate Change, and seek to inspire and give them tools to enact change within their

communities.

[An Invitation to Friends Ages 16-35](#)

We invite you to join Young Friends around the world, and across the Quaker branches, for a series of 5 online workshops over 10 weeks. Join us for one or all five. These sessions will be run *by* young Quakers *for* young Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation on 5 Saturdays between August 29 and October 24, 2020. **[More information here.](#)**



For ages 14-18, the **[Walking the Walk Youth Initiative](#)** is a nationally-recognized program that provides teenagers with experiences, skills, and resources necessary to live in a diverse world, deepen their own identities, and break through walls that distance and divide. **13 sessions on Sunday afternoons between October 2020 and April 2021.** *Completion of the program will result in an award of 300 hours of community service.*



Anti-Racism Workshop

Raising Anti-Racist White Children

3-Part Live Interactive Webinar: November 4, 11 & 18 from 7-9 PM Eastern
[Facebook event page here for more information and registration.](#) Offered by the **[Center for the Study of White American Culture](#)** (CSWAC), an anti-racism organization, this workshop is for

- Parents, Grandparents & Caretakers
- Educators, Sunday School teachers
- Service professionals and Community members
- People of all races are welcome to the workshop, and much of the material applies to raising anti-racist children of any race

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Annual Conference: August 14-16 on Zoom

We gather to open ourselves to deeper listening and fresh inspiration from a place beneath the brainstorming to solve the logistical disruptions caused by



the pandemic.

The virtual conference will be organized around three worship sharing opportunities. Each will last about 90 minutes. There will be Spanish-language interpretation and break-out groups to make space for rich sharing.

[More information, flyer, and registration on the QREC website.](#)

SACRED SHELTERING



WRITTEN BY MEGAN ROHRER
& ILLUSTRATED BY FRANZI PAETZOLD

NEW Children's Book in Response to the Pandemic

Mehgan Rohrer's new children's book [Sacred Sheltering](#) helps children think about sheltering in place as loving their neighbor.



NEW Curriculum from the World Council of Churches

Download the FREE Toolkit: [Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches Get Informed, Get Inspired, Take Action](#)

Looking ahead: Saturday, October 24

10:00 AM Training for Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse followed by Presentation/Discussion on Youth Safety in Our Meeting Communities.



More information to come about this event being in-person at Friends Center or online. [Please register in advance on the PYM website!](#)

Stay in touch!



[The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative \(QREC\)](#) has created a group on Facebook for sharing of support and resources: "Valiant Together"

Visit: [PYM Religious Education](#) for additional resources and curricula.

"I have a question about resources, programs . . . or a great idea to share!"

Reach out to Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life Coordinator,

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