



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



FGC NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES

Niagara University

Niagara Falls, New York

Some reasons we are excited about this campus

- Compact level campus
- Good food, healthy snacks
- An brand new dining hall
- Lovely rooms for Junior Gathering groups
- Junior Gathering groups will meet very close to the center of campus



NU Campus Info: <http://www.niagara.edu/>

NU Campus map: <http://map.niagara.edu/>

Junior Gathering Times



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2017 Theme: Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves

Join the Junior Gathering community this summer to explore how to live into our Quaker traditions and notice where Ripples of Spirit begin and where they spread.

We are very excited to be together in New York and have designed a fun-filled week to share with you. Your child will find ample opportunities in Junior Gathering to notice ripples of Spirit in silence, song, and community. We will tune into the source of those ripples and nurture their outward growth. We hope you will join us!

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

NEW THIS YEAR! We will start our day worshipping together as a community in family friendly worship. It will include music, stories, queries and open worship. It is half an hour and intended for absolutely everyone! Join us in being community together, creating Ripples, experiencing Spirit moving amongst us, at 8:15 every morning.

Implications for families:

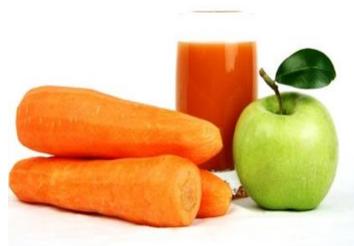
There is a change in the schedule for



morning Junior Gathering.

Programming will be delayed until 9:00 am.

Consider which breakfast options work best for your family: a quick pass through the dining hall or a simple bowl of granola in your room. (Refrigerators are extremely limited on this campus. If you choose this option you may wish to bring a lunchbox cooler to keep a quart of milk or yogurt.)



Healthy Snacks

For Junior Gathering Participants

We believe every child should have a healthy snack each morning. We offer three varieties of 100% juice: white grape, apple, or orange as well as a combination of two other items. For example: fresh blueberries and rice cakes; a banana and graham crackers, carrot sticks and corn thins.

We do not use snacks with peanuts because of the severity of some peanut allergies. We provide gluten free alternatives each day.

If you have suggestions for snacks, please contact Patsy Arnold Martin, Junior Gathering Coordinator at the FGC office.

MAKE RIPPLES: Come move, be still, sing, participate, listen, watch, drum, worship; create soundscapes, visual art and dance to bring our 2017 theme to life. Friends of all ages will deepen community, our connection to earth, and open to the movement of Spirit by being and creating together.

Join us for this all Gathering participatory performance, led by Vonn New. As Friends, we eliminated the laity, on Wednesday evening, we eliminate the audience.

Vonn New is a composer, a percussionist, software developer, kayaker, activist, former nursing home patient, and new grandparent. She has inspired Friends through her Sounding the Divine workshop.

Winter Pre-Gathering Tips for Families

- Ask your Meeting now for **financial assistance** for your fees or for travel.
- Encourage **another family** to plan to attend Gathering with your family.
- **Register early** to maximize access to financial aid and workshops. (April 3-16, 2017)
- Read the **Junior Gathering webpages** for your age children:
www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/children-and-teens
NOTE: there are links to the different age groups: Middle School, Kindergarten —Sixth grade, Preschool, Infants and Toddlers.
- Browse the **Gathering website:** www.FGCgathering.org
Plan to go back to the website again in March, then again in May. New information is being posted all spring including **FAQs**. Send questions you have that aren't answered there to JG@fgcquaker.org
- If you have **questions**, call the FGC office at (215-561-1700, option 2) or send an email message to jg@fgcquaker.org. This is a good time before things get too busy in the office.
- Consider joining **Junior Gathering Staff** (see page 3).

Join our Staff

Many Friends have found that serving Junior Gathering is an enriching personal growth experience.



Major giggle fest at the Friends Journal Photo Booth at Gathering 2014 in California, PA: Katrina McQuail, Patsy Arnold Martin, Ellie Greenler, Galen Fick, Casey Kashnig and Jessamyn Doan

JG LEADERSHIP 2017

Junior Gathering Staff Workgrant FAQs

•What workgrants are available?

Workgrants are available to help those who work in the Junior Gathering morning and evening groups with some smaller grants for afternoon volunteers.

•How much of the cost of the Gathering will be covered by a workgrant?

Workgrants for support staff in the mornings cover 50% of the basic fees. For evening support staff the workgrants cover 40% of the basic fees.

*Basic Fee: Program fee plus room and board in a non-air conditioned room with three meals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

JOB DESCRIPTIONS, STAFF EXPECTATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS
www.FGCgathering.org/jgstaff-information

Junior Gathering is made possible through the gifts and dedicated work of nearly 100 loving adults. Are you interested in joining this community?

Check out our website for applications and more information:

www.FGCgathering.org/jgstaff-information

Apply early online to secure your place on our fabulous staff. Workgrants for volunteers help keep the Gathering budget-friendly, too. The Junior Gathering Program and staff are LGBT-friendly.

Check the FGC Website after March 1 for the JG Staff Application.

From JG Staff Evaluations

What fed your spirit in Junior Gathering?

When Junior Gathering Staff were asked this question, responses ranged from “awesome kids and games” to “singing and naps.” Here are some other responses:

- Junior Gathering Staff Worship each morning
- What my program evoked in the young people
- Appreciation from others at the Gathering
- The Heart sharing in our group. The kids were really energized especially when reflecting on wealth disparity.
- The conversations I had with the children – their playful spirits and their wisdom

Will “the bright faces of the youngsters and their enthusiasm” feed your spirit in 2017?



2017 Junior Gathering T-Shirt Design

What’s the New T-shirt?

Staff T-Shirts must be worn whenever on duty

For safety’s sake, each Junior Gathering staff member will be issued a JG Staff T-Shirt to wear daily during program time. This year’s shirt will be a bright pink, with a brand new child-drawn design which should stand out and be easy for the children to identify. Shirts will be distributed during the orientation on Sunday afternoon.



Most of our staff work mornings, during workshop time, or evenings during evening programs, but we do have a few afternoon positions – Family Place Assistants, and Multi-Gen Coordinator. See web for more information

Group Name	Description	Age or Grades	Symbol
Acorns	Infants & Toddlers	0 – 36 months	
Pinecones	Preschoolers	3-5 years	
Sprouts	Primary I	Rising Kindergarten and 1st Grades	
Seedlings	Primary II	Rising 2 nd & 3rd Grades	
Saplings	Elementary I	Rising 4 th Grade	
Pinetrees	Elementary II	Rising 5 th & 6 th Grades	
Oaks	Middle School	Rising 7th, 8th, & 9th Grades	

Tips for 1st Time Attenders:

Are you wondering about how to find your way in the midst of more than 1,000 Quakers? Recent newcomers recommend:

- Choose on-campus housing and ask to be roomed near people you know. You can even add their name later (until May 31).
- Don't take on a workgrant position. If you need financial assistance, ask for a scholarship.
- Arrive a few hours early to have time to settle in.
- Take care of yourself. Stop for a bit of quiet each day. Make mindful choices about which events to attend and when to do nothing.
- Get enough sleep. Take afternoon naps.
- Visit the Family Place in the afternoons early in the week. This is a good place to connect with other parents, and to sign up for Cooperative Child Care.
- Watch for other parents in your dorm with the same "symbol" on their nametags as you and your child. This symbol means they are in the same group as your child. This may be a family you can set up a playdate with in the afternoons or share childcare in the later evenings, after the children have gone to sleep.

Niagara University? What's nearby?

- Niagara Falls – and an inexpensive shuttle than runs right there from campus <http://www.niagarafallslive.com/>
- Beaver Island State Park <http://parks.ny.gov/parks/56/maps.aspx>
- CANADA!! (bring your passports if you wish to visit)