

Junior Gathering Times

Niagara University
Niagara Falls, NY

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



Varsity Village

Welcome families, children, parents, and sponsors!

I am excited to share some of the ripples in our lives as we join in community at Junior Gathering, the children's program of the FGC Gathering, at Niagara University, New York, USA.

During our time in NY, we will be exploring our theme, *Ripples start where Spirit moves*. I encourage you to keep an eye on the ripples in your lives. Since ripples can build into rapids and waterfalls, make sure to bring things to Gathering that help you find your quiet inner pool and bring you into slow water so you can rest and more clearly hear and feel the Spirit. This might mean bringing a favorite book, a special stuffed animal or a pillow. It might mean planning some quiet time in the afternoons or keeping a few snacks in your room for "comfort food".

As Junior Gathering Friend-in-Residence, I provide spiritual grounding for our time together – which means going with the flow of the programs and being the sandy beach (if necessary) to ground the energy of the participants. Throughout the week I will be visiting each of the JG groups as well as Family Place and the Multi-Generational Activities. I am available to you if you need me. You can leave me a message at the Junior Gathering Office or on the Message Board.

I hope you will take time between now and when we meet at the FGC Gathering, to talk and think about what this year's theme means to you. I encourage you to float along with the Spirit as it eddies and flows through your days. May you find it bubbles and ripples in spontaneous laughter, silliness, and song. And may you be carried on this current from now, to and through Gathering, and beyond.

Travel safely Friends!! I look forwards to seeing you soon,

Becky Marty
Junior Gathering Friend in Residence 2017



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



In this Issue

<i>Junior Gathering Program Info</i>	Page 2
<i>Open House & Important Policies</i>	Page 2
<i>Gathering Tips For Families; Snacks</i>	Page 3
<i>New for 2017</i>	Page 4
<i>Mandatory Orientation (Oaks)</i>	Page 5
<i>Making Ripples Wednesday evening</i>	Page 4
<i>Afternoon Activities MultiGens</i>	Page 6

Who to Know

Junior Gathering Co-Clerks:

Ida Trisolini

itrisolini@cfsnc.org

Casey Kashnig

casey.kashnig@gmail.com

Junior Gathering Friend in Residence:

Becky Marty

beckymarty@outlook.com

FGC Junior Gathering Coordinator:

Patsy Arnold Martin

215-561-1700 ext. 3050

patsym@fgcquaker.org

Who are Acorns????



Acorns are our youngest Friends in Junior Gathering. Watch for **Acorns** on nametags to meet families with other little acorns.

Junior Gathering Open House

in Varsity Village and Academic Complex

Sunday, July 2, 5:45-6:45 pm

Come see the **space** for your Junior Gathering Group. Meet your group **leaders**. Get a **preview** of the week's activities. Meet other parents/sponsors with children the same ages.

Junior Gathering Open House is for parents, sponsors, and all children from

little newborns through those entering 6th grade in the fall.

Learn about our Groups: Acorns, Pinecones, Sprouts, Saplings and Pinetrees! Look on the back of your nametags for specific Group Locations. We look forward to meeting you! (Oaks Orientation at 8:45 see p.5)

Junior Gathering Attendance Policy:

For all Junior Gathering Participants:

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 Workshop or Evening Plenary 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 to 9th grade this fall (Oaks):

- Starting **Monday** 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 older children 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.

Reminder to Junior Gathering Participants:
Leave electronic devices in your room. Our talented staff have developed an exciting program for you!

Junior Gathering Hours:

Sunday evening we begin with **Open House at 5:45 pm**, after dinner, but before the Opening Plenary

Community Worship
8:15 – 8:45 am

Junior Gathering Morning Program

9:00 am until 12:15 pm
Monday - Friday

Junior Gathering Evening Program

(Beginning Monday)
6:45 until 9:00 pm

No Junior Gathering Evening Program on Wednesday

Come to
Making Ripples
for all ages

To Do List:

- ✓ Give your cell phone numbers to your child's group leader!
- ✓ Pick up a Daily Bulletin every morning
- ✓ Check online and in your check-in packet to plan family activities for the afternoons
- ✓ Sign up for Cooperative Childcare at the Family Place.
- ✓ Join other families during free time.



A Sapling is a young tree. Junior Gathering Saplings will be in grades 2, 3, or 4 in the fall.

Help us Plan for the Needs of Your Child

Please let us know in advance if a child in your family has particular needs or if there are family circumstances you think we should know about. All information about challenges in coping with groups, serious illness, allergies, limitation in physical ability, or significant changes in a child's life will be treated tenderly.

Communicating this information will allow the Junior Gathering staff to prepare appropriately for your child's needs.

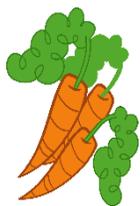
Contact your child's group coordinator (see letter enclosed) or Patsy Arnold Martin, the FGC Junior Gathering Coordinator at 215-561-1700 ext. 3050.

Tips for a Successful Gathering for your Family

With so many choices of activities for youth and parents, stopping to think about what we need sometimes takes 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 the wonderful Gathering 'coincidences' to occur.
- * Think about our theme "**Ripples start where spirit moves**" and what it means for your week at Gathering!
- * At the end of each day check in and see how things went. Does tomorrow's plan need to be readjusted based on today?

Snacks, Snacks, Snacks



We provide healthy snacks for your children during our morning program time. We serve juice daily and **a balance of fruits, vegetables, and crackers** throughout the week. Please let us know if your child has food sensitivities or allergies so that we can meet the needs of all of our children.



Bicycle and Riding Policy

At the Gathering 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.



Pinecones are our Preschoolers, usually ages 3 to 5. Look for Pinecones on nametags.

Things to bring:

- ✓ Pillow and pillow case
- ✓ Cooler - for your family - since this campus has very few refrigerators
- ✓ Helmet if you bring a bike.
- ✓ Refillable water bottle
- ✓ Musical instruments
- ✓ Alarm clock
- ✓ Clothes you can get wet or dirty!
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Sunscreen (fragrance free)
- ✓ Doorstop - for your room to make it easy for Friends to see when you are available to visit.

Remember to label the things you bring.

Sprouts are really emerging —and so are the children in Junior Gathering. Our Sprouts will be in Kindergarten or First grade in the fall. Watch for sprouts on nametags.



New for 2017

Community Worship: 8:15-8:45 am Daily

NEW THIS YEAR! We will start our day worshipping together as a community in family-friendly worship. This will include music, stories, queries and open worship. The theme for this worship is "The Beloved Community." 30 minutes long, it is intended for absolutely everyone and is being hosted by a variety of groups within FGC.

Note:

Community Worship is from **8:15 to 8:45** am, and Junior Gathering programming begins at 9:00 am.

Consider which breakfast options work best for your family: early to bed and a leisurely breakfast, a quick pass through the dining hall, or a simple bowl of granola in your room.

Important: Refrigerators are extremely limited on this campus. If you choose the last option you may wish to bring a lunchbox cooler to keep a quart of milk or yogurt, or bring small boxes of "camping" milk.

Join us in **community together**, creating Ripples, experiencing Spirit moving in us, at **8:15 every morning**.

Making Ripples: Water is Life! Wednesday 7:00 pm

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 "**Making Ripples**," the all Gathering participatory performance on Wednesday evening.

Children intuitively know how to participate in response to sound and environment, using imagination and emotion and body movement. Junior Gathering participants have the opportunity to serve as bellwethers to encourage adult participation during the Wednesday night plenary. Vonn New will come to Junior Gathering ahead of the plenary to prepare the young people on how to help the grown-ups feel comfortable participating.

Zan Lombardo, Junior Gathering's Artist in Residence, will help Junior Gathering create water-and-spirit-inspired artworks prior to Wednesday night that will beautify the plenary space and serve as visual inspiration for the performance art that results.

Finally, if you have a recorder, bring it to join the **Making Ripples Recorder Chorus!**

Visit the Falls!



Create Your Own Field Trip! Take the Free [Discover Niagara Shuttle](#) to explore 15 tourist destinations on the Niagara Frontier. Shuttle stops at the Castellani Art Museum on the NU campus. This free shuttle service runs daily.

Who are Oaks????



Oaks: youth who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

Find out more at the **Oak Group Orientation at 8:45 pm Sunday night*— in Gallagher** (instead of Open House)

****EVERY Oak participant and at least one of their parents or sponsors are required to attend this orientation. ****

This is a time for parents or sponsors and youngsters to work together to set expectations for the week that are consistent among families.

At this orientation, **Oaks** staff will introduce the morning workshops. Each participant will indicate their favorites. (Workshop assignments will be revealed Monday morning when we gather together.)

We'll also go over the ground rules, review health forms, and answer your questions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*If you have conflicting orientations, contact:

2017 FGC High School Coordinators:

Kendra Graham graham.kendra@hotmail.com

Ben Hustis benhustis@gmail.com

They will reschedule your High School Parent Meeting!



Pinetrees in Junior Gathering are entering 5th and 6th grade in the fall.

Watch for **Pinetrees** on nametags.

Niagara University Campus

Notes:

Bedding: Please bring your own pillow and pillow case, the university will not be providing them this year.

Deer ticks: The campus does have deer, which means it is possible to run into deer ticks. Campus green areas are mowed frequently, which does reduce tick population. We recommend a daily tick check and using repellent if you will be outside for long periods of time.

Laundry: IS FREE! Each of the dorms and Varsity Village houses has free laundry facilities available. Gathering will provide fragrance-free laundry detergent.

Niagara University prohibits scooters and skateboards on campus. Please do not bring scooters or skateboards to the 2017 FGC Gathering.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Family Place, in **Academic 130**, is open every afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30. Parents and children can find scheduled activities here, books to read and borrow from the Junior Gathering Library (see below), games, craft supplies and mutual support. Come to an initial parent's gathering on Monday at 1:30 for worship-sharing with attention to hopes and plans for the week. Meet other parents and begin to arrange cooperative childcare; volunteer to lead a discussion or children's activity later in the week.



FAMILY PLACE SCHEDULE:

Monday: **1:30** Parent's Meeting

- **3:15** Make paste-paper cards, to be used for

Making Ripples on Wednesday night, with Zan Lombardo, Junior Gathering artist in residence. This is a gloriously messy and tactile process.

Tuesday: **1:30** Make and fly kites with Chuck Jones

- **3:15** Practice some simple tai chi with John Smallwood

Wednesday: Bring a pillow and a lovey and join us for nap/rest time. Make a small stuffed pin for yourself or a stuffed friend.

Thursday: **1:30** Practice some simple qui gong with Amy Ward Brimmer.

- **3:15** Sing-along with John Scardina from Friends Academy in New York

Friday: **1:30** Practice some simple yoga with Ann Ritter.

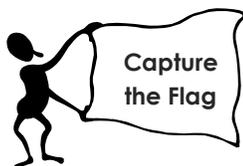
- All week: Katherine Spinner has knitting looms to share along with yarn and extra knitting needles. New and experienced knitters are invited to hang out at Family Place.

If you have ideas you'd like to share before you come to the Gathering, contact Katherine Spinner at qkluddite@gmail.com

Junior Gathering Library: We have a library of children's books for you to check out all week in Family Place. We also invite you to donate your favorite new or used books to our collection. Please bring donations to Family Place between 1:30 and 4:30 Monday – Friday.



Multi-Gens: Activities for all ages to enjoy together in the afternoons at 1:30.



Monday • **Capture the Flag**

Tuesday • **Story-time** hosted by the Center for People of Color

Wednesday • **Take a Nap!**

Thursday • **Art with Zan** or **Clowning for Peace**

Friday • **Story-time** hosted by the Center for People of Color

Swimming



Indoor Pool on campus: open Thursday afternoon. Don't forget your suits and towels.

Special Events

Monday

Family Place Planning Meeting **1:30**

Tuesday

Frederick Douglass' historical speech: "What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July" by Dr. David Anderson **1:30 pm**

Parent Feedback Meeting
Location: TBA
3:15 pm

Wednesday

Take a Nap afternoon!

Multigenerational Plenary:
Making Ripples
7:00 pm

NO JG Evening Groups

Thursday

Lezlie Harper: "The Importance of Black as It Relates to Today"

Friday

Cobbs Hill Consort;
Jefferson Svengsouk and
Sandy Gianniny: Music in
Palliative Care 1:30 pm

Saturday

**9:00 AM All Gathering
Worship**

Have a safe trip home &
plan to come to the **2018
FGC Gathering** at
University of Toledo,
In Ohio
July 1-7, 2018.



Find More Information about **Family Friendly Afternoon Options** in the Daily Bulletin or at the Local Arrangements Table in Gallagher.