



Calling all women to **USFWI Northeast Region- Spring Gathering**

In person at Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Theme. Blessed are the Peacemakers Matt.5:7.

Date. Start evening of Friday 24 May to noonish Sunday 26th May. 2024. **Why these dates?**

We decided at our last USFW NE region meeting to hold it this time in May.

Holding it next to the Memorial Weekend helps those who are working and can't get off work on other weekends.

Location: Why at Oakwood Friends School? -

Train service available to Poughkeepsie to avoid long distance driving- better for the environment

Cheaper accommodation costs compared to Woolman Hill and Powell House

Has a good technical department that can help us hold a hybrid event

Program We are still working on the detailed plans, but here are the major components:

Friday, May 24

Gather for supper and Evening of open worship and introductions

Saturday 25th-

Early devotion led by one of our women Friends Pastors

Photo of Getry in Turkana desert

10am-Keynote speaker- Getry Agizah from Kenya. She will be giving her testimony on how she was able to help her country remain peaceful during their most recent presidential elections. Getry is now Programme Director of FUM Africa where she coordinates the Friends Church Peace Teams, manages FUM relationships with Samburu and Turkana, and oversees the Girl Education Project. Her will and heart are in peace work and she has worked for peace in Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, China, S.Africa, Guatemala, and Ireland with Friends Peace Teams. She is a member of Malava Yearly Meeting and married with three children.

Getry in the Turkana Desert where she helps girls stay in school and avoid early marriage at age 12.



Small worship sharing groups- How can we reach across boundaries and keep at peace with our neighbors, whether there are differences in race, culture, economic status, political party, etc.

We offer bilingual. English/Swahili translation

Time for all those women who are involved in helping prevent violence to share their ministries

e.g.

Those who prevent bullying among children

Those who minister with domestic violence

Those who minister with other women concerning violence against women

Those building right relationships with Indigenous peoples

Those who have been able to get both Democrat and Republican neighbors to talk with each other.

Those who enjoy cross cultural ministry/ cross generational ministry

Do you have experience in some other form of peacekeeping that can encourage others?

Singing- in various styles/languages interspersed throughout the program

Gather a meeting of diaspora people in our area- chance to meet Kenyans, Congolese, Jamaicans and others living/working in the Northeast region (e. g. Baltimore Kenyans, Quebec Congolese, Buffalo Congolese, and New York City Jamaicans, etc).

Get opportunity to **try programmed, semi programmed, and unprogrammed types of worship** among Friends.

Sunday May 26th

Final worship time and evaluation. You are invited to visit Peekskill Meeting that meets at the school, or visit another meeting on your way home.

Why do we prefer meeting in person? Will it be available online?

We will offer some limited parts, e. g. Saturday morning when Getry speaks on line, but by gathering in person, we will have time over meals, and other times to share much further and deeper.

We plan to bring cloth scraps and hand sew some re-useable sanitary pads to help girls in Turkana, Samburu, and Tanzania stay in school and delay early (age 12) marriages. We can keep our hands busy while listening as others share their experiences as peacemakers. (To act, not just talk about being peacemakers.) (One of Getry's work in Kenya is helping the girls in Turkana and Samburu stay in school).

Cost?

It costs \$70 for the weekend, that includes Friday supper, Saturday Lunch and Supper, and Sunday brunch. You will be housed in rooms of two per room. For breakfast, we will bring our own simple breakfast materials and refrigeration and a way to heat water is available.

PLEASE LET SUZY KLEINBERNDT KNOW IF YOU ARE HOPING TO COME BY MARCH 20TH.

(The school requires a guarantee of 25 to come in person).

Let Suzy know your plans- suzy14kb@gmail.com 413-579-1307

Meanwhile, help spread the word and invite others to come along as a traveling companion.