

Report to New York Quarterly Meeting  
October 19, 2025

People of Color Worship & Reflection Group  
Discernment Past Present and Future

The People of Color Worship & Reflection Group are in the midst of a discernment process. We are looking back at our beginnings, examining our present and making decisions about our future.

We will continue our efforts to broaden our cultural awareness. Previous outings took us the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; a Japanese exhibit at the Noguchi Museum; and a visit to the Lewis Howard Latimer House. Latimer, the son of formerly enslaved parents, was a self-taught engineer who invented the carbon filament that made Edison's light bulb possible. Recently we visited the *Smoke in Our Hair* exhibit at the Hudson River Museum. It was an exploration of contemporary art by Native American, Alaska Native, and First Nations. The exhibit was thoughtful and inspiring exploring the themes of belonging, acceptance and loss. Next on our field trip list is the Studio Museum of Harlem.

The Working Group has adopted Community Agreements to facilitate group participation: We affirm ourselves as People of Color; We affirm the importance and necessity of Friends of Color having safe spaces to share our lived experiences; We will listen deeply and share deeply; We will speak from our own feelings and thoughts, using "I" statements; We will honor confidentiality as requested.

The Working Group endorsed the statement "Quakers Discern Genocide Is Occurring In Gaza And Urge Courageous Action" prepared by eight Quaker organizations from around the world. We also requested that New York Yearly Meeting endorse the statement.

Our *Inclusive First Day School Curriculum*, developed by Linda Shirley, is in its second year. This year we have taught: Introduction to Quakerism; Our Loving World; Centering and Silence; Truth; Quaker Testimonies; and aspects of Community at First Day School sessions at Flushing Meeting.

The Curriculum has been emailed to Monthly Meetings within New York Yearly Meeting and will be sent to Religious Education Clerks in other Yearly Meetings once we have additional feedback from NYQM Friends. We are asking First Day School Committees, and concerned individuals for their feedback, constructive criticism and suggestions. Linda Shirley has prepared, and will distribute, print editions to each Monthly Meeting at today's Quarterly Meeting. We are researching the costs involved in printing additional copies. The curriculum has also been uploaded to our POC website, [POCQuakers.org](http://POCQuakers.org).

We continue our work on updating a Faith & Practice Translation into Chinese: The Erikson Translations proposal was presented to the NYQM Witness Fund. The proposal is to translate the rest of the Faith section, along with

Advices and Queries and a table of contents. We have received some challenging feedback on the translation, and we are organizing a meeting to resolve these issues. We are also preparing an inclusive introduction to the NYYM Faith and Practice as our current Faith and Practice includes quotes from White men and White women but none from any Women of Color.

**Financial Report:** As of September 30, 2025 we have \$4,929.26 in our bank account. All expenses this month were paid by donation, so there were no drawdowns from the account.

- \$29.80 remains from the NYQ Witness Fund allocated to the Translation Project.
- \$2,402.46 is left in our Quakerism Curriculum Fund
- \$2,497.00 is unallocated and discretionary

**Announcements:**

a. Nova Sturup is in urgent need of a kidney donor and financial support. You can find the GoFundMe appeal at: <https://gofund.me/9a8e2148>. We urge everyone who can to help them in this critical time.

b. John Choe drafted a petition for those concerned with Quaker investments in Friends Fiduciary and profits generated by military contractors complicit in genocide: <https://www.change.org/friendsfiduciary>.

c. DIWALI Celebration, Festival of Lights and Eco Friendly Celebration, October 25, 2025, PS 20/Bowne Playground, Union Street and Barclay Avenue, Flushing, Queens. 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Garden Stewardship. 11:00 AM to 2:00 AM - Introduction to Diwali and Dolak Drumming.

d. We are happy to report that John Choe's case in Georgia has been dismissed and he has been completely vindicated. A report was published in the 9/21/25 Classic City News: News from the Metro Athens Crime Beat & More - "Athens Judge Dismisses Case of Man Arrested for Reading Book in Car" by Joe Johnson. Visit: <https://www.classiccitynews.com/post/judge-dismisses> for all of the details.

*Submitted by Ernestine Buscemi, John Choe, Linda Shirley, Helen Garay Toppins*