

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2009

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Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Due Thursday, May 21st

Materials for June's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:

Rini Clarkberg
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The Structure of the Religious Society of Friends in the US

— Marilyn Ray and Bronwyn Mohlke

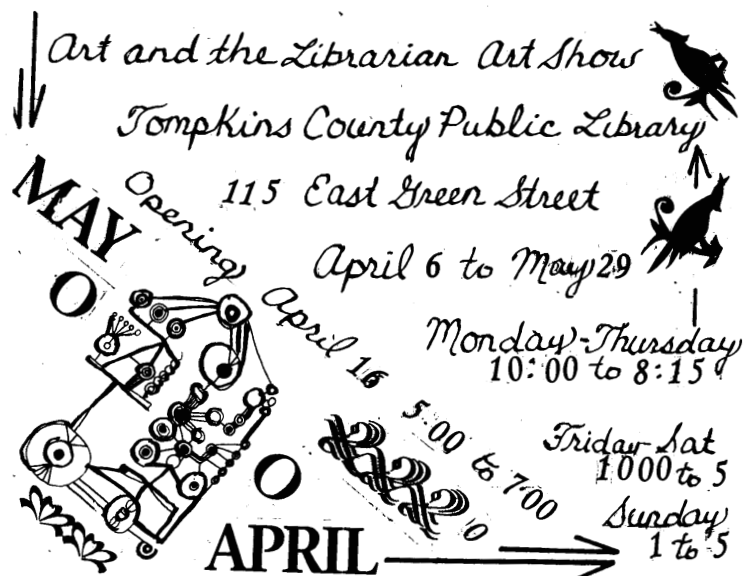
At the April 2009 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, those who serve as representatives to New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) and Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM) were asked to help increase knowledge about these two larger Quaker bodies. The following is a first attempt to provide information to F/friends about where Ithaca Monthly Meeting, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM) and New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) fit into the structure of Friends organizations in the US. It begins with the smallest grouping of F/friends and moves to the largest. It ends with a description of the two primary national Friends organizations.

Friends First Day Gatherings

Worship Groups – These are generally the smallest groups of F/friends who usually live in an area where there is no Monthly Meeting locally. It can also be a group of F/friends which has split from a very large Meeting and plans to start a new, smaller Meeting. These groups often meet for Worship in private homes. Sometimes they meet in prisons.

Preparatory Meetings – When a large Monthly Meeting splits or a Worship Group decides it wants to become a Monthly Meeting it becomes a preparatory Meeting under the care of a Yearly Meeting for a few years to learn how to conduct worship and business after the manner of Quakers, and become a formal Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Structure, continued on page 2



Ann Rhodin will have several peices in the "Librarian Art Show" at the Tompkins County Public Library where Ann serves as a volunteer.

Monthly Meetings & Friends Churches – These are generally recognized member Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends. Most meet for worship weekly and the “monthly” part is generally the Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Some Meetings have pastors and a programmed worship service, and often also call themselves a church. We have several programmed Meetings in New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) and Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting including Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting in Poplar Ridge (near Auburn) and Farmington Friends Church (south of Rochester).

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM)

Monthly Meetings are typically grouped into “regional” or “quarterly” meetings. Ithaca Monthly Meeting is a member of FSRM which has 13 member Monthly Meetings and Churches in the large area west and south of Syracuse, New York. FSRM also includes Prison Worship Groups in Attica and Five-Points and one Preparatory Prison Meeting in Auburn.

FSRM meets three times a year for Spring, Fall and Winter Gatherings. These gatherings include programming for adults and children. Bronwyn Mohlke and Marilyn Ray are the representatives from IMM to FSRM in 2009.

Spring Gathering is FSRM’s major gathering and covers a weekend, usually the 3rd weekend in May each year, from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon with opportunities to meet with other F/friends from the region, hear inspirational messages from speakers drawn from the wider Quaker circle, and join workshops to discuss issues and concerns often related to the speaker’s topics. Member Monthly Meetings take turns organizing the adult and children’s programs, food, etc. Meeting for Worship with Attention to FSRM Business is held after Worship on Sunday and continues after lunch Sunday afternoon.

Fall Gathering takes place the 3rd Saturday in September each year. The morning offers a program and the afternoon is for Worship with Attention to Business. For example, in Fall 2008, we met in Syracuse for a program about planning for the care of loved ones and F/friends as they age.

Winter Gathering is usually held in Rochester, NY Monthly Meeting on the 3rd Saturday in January. The morning session is for planning Spring Gathering and the afternoon is for Worship with Attention to Business.

New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM)

Monthly Meetings (and Quarterly or Regional Meetings) are also nested within Yearly Meetings. Ithaca Monthly Meeting—and 65 other meetings and churches in New York, northern New Jersey, and southern Connecticut—is a member of New York Yearly Meeting. NYYM has representatives from all member Meetings who come together with other F/friends for quarterly sessions. Yearly Meeting is when all F/friends in member Monthly Meetings and Churches are invited to come together for a week of learning, gatherings, worship, and worship with attention to business at Silver Bay, NY in late July each year.

NYYM has a General Secretary, currently Christopher Sammond. It has three Coordinating Committees: Ministry, Nurture, and

Witness, each of which has numerous sub-committees. The website, <www.nyym.org>, indicates that there are 3,512 Friends who are members of Meetings belonging to NYYM. Nancy Gabriel and Melanie-Claire Mallison are the current (2009) representatives from IMM to NYYM and Steve Mohlke is Clerk of the NYYM Financial Services Committee.

Other Yearly Meetings in the Northeast include New England Yearly Meeting which includes Monthly Meetings and Churches in most of New England. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is comprised of Monthly Meetings and Churches in southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Friends General Conference (FGC)

“Founded in 1900, FGC has grown from a voluntary organization of seven yearly meetings created to hold a ‘general conference’ every other year into a vibrant association of fourteen yearly meetings and regional groups and nine directly-affiliated monthly meetings that serves Quakers year-round with a vast array of programs and services” (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/about-us>).

F/friends from all over the US gather in different locations around the country each summer, usually in early July, for a week of learning, worshiping, and playing together.

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

FUM is an international association of “Friends Meetings and Churches organized for evangelism, global partnership, leadership development and communications.” Its purpose is “to energize and equip Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord” (<http://www.fum.org/about/index.html>). FUM has accomplished wonderful and much needed work in many African countries. Kenya, for example, has the largest number of Friends of any country in the world and is a major, active member of the Governing Board of FUM.

National and International Friends Organizations

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) “is the largest peace lobby in Washington, DC. [...] It is also the oldest registered ecumenical lobby in Washington, DC. The organization’s legislative priorities and policies are set by a General Committee made up of some 220 Quakers from around the country. FCNL’s multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity, and truth with peace and social justice issues which the United States government is or should be addressing.” (<http://www.fcnl.org/about/>)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) “carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims, AFSC’s work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures. The organization’s mission and achievements won worldwide recognition in 1947 when it accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with the British Friends Service Council on behalf of all Quakers. The AFSC is directed by a Quaker board and staffed by Quakers and other people of faith who share the Friends’ desire for peace and social justice” (<http://www.afsc.org/ht/d/sp/i/267/pid/267>).”

Meeting Announcements

Sojourner Room Improvement

The Burt House Working Group would like to report that there is a new daybed in the sojourner room. This particular bed is one which is similar to the kind that Bonnie and Wilma searched for so diligently for so many months. It can be used as a cozy place for our younger Friends to sit and tell stories when it is not in use for overnight guests.

Route 79 Driveway: Chain & Lock

There is now a security chain across the new driveway at the Route 79 property. It is secured on the right hand post with a combination lock covered by a short piece of small tire tube. The combination is a standard R-L-R combination with the numbers 4-26-37.

(If you are unfamiliar with combination locks, turn the tumbler to the right at least 3 complete turns stopping at 4, turn left pass 4 once stopping at 26, turn right stopping at 37, pull lock open.)

As a memory helper, we have embedded the combination in a series of numbers written on the back of the post near the lock. We are also planning to stamp the code on the back or side of the lock itself recognizing that the number on the post may fade and be unreadable over time.

The encoded number we have come up with is 227372604. This starts with the Burt House street address (227) followed by the combination in reverse order 37-26-04 (or in correct order 4-26-37).

If you have questions contact one of the members of the Route 79 Committee: Rini Clarkberg, Chuck Mohler, Martin Jollis, Mike Simkin or Marion DaGrossa.

Friend with Eggs

Nancy Norton writes that she hasn't attended meeting since taking on a bed and breakfast business, but does make an effort to participate in our community through the newsletter and the mailing list.

Nancy is interested in local foods and now has her own ducks that have begun laying eggs. The large eggs are wonderful. She would like to offer them to Friends for \$2.50 for 1/2 dozen, \$4.50 per dozen. Nancy feeds local and organic grains and soybeans, in addition to full-time foraging on her pond and yard, with a little nutritional yeast, kelp and organic milk powder added for a more balanced nutrition. Please contact Nancy at nnorton@mac.com or 272-0556. She lives at 26 Quarry Road, in the Ellis Hollow neighborhood, but may be able to drop eggs off at someone's house on the way to Greenstar, etc.

IMM Events

Summer Retreat (Camp) Planning Friday, May 1st, 6p

Friends, the event formerly known as camp will be held late in the summer, possible over Labor Day Weekend. We hope to settle on exact dates at the meeting on Friday, May 1st and hope that we will have your input at that time. We will also discuss the theme and location of this year's retreat for our youth. Please join us at the Clarkberg's house, 150 Giles Street, at 6pm where we will partake in a humble supper while we discuss. Contributions to dinner are welcome but not necessary. Questions? Email or call Rini Clarkberg, mec30@cornell.edu, 277-9364.

Social Justice Committee Meeting Sunday, May 3rd, Rise of Meeting

Please join us in the cafe in Anabel Taylor.

Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, May 12th, 7:30p

Meeting at the Burt House, Peace Witness is an open committee that welcomes the participation of everyone. Our main goals are to provide a focus in our Meeting for peace witness and to encourage and support the leadings of Meeting members and attenders working for peace.

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, May 26th, 7:15p

A Meeting for Healing is held at 7:15 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau's house (112 Mount Pleasant Road). If you have a concern but cannot attend, let Melody know and you will be held in the Light. For directions or more information, call Melody, 272-8755.

Move to Hector Meeting House Sunday, May 24th, 10:30a

Meeting for Worship will move to its summer lodgings on Sunday, May 24th. At our home along Perry City Road, meeting for worship begins at 10:30am. Friends are reminded that being timely to meeting facilitates a centered worship for others.

There are no organized First Day School classes during our time at Hector. As during the school year, children are invited to attend the first 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship. While many children may choose to go outside at 10:45, children are always welcome to participate in the whole of Meeting for Worship.

Quakers in our Region

Help the AVP Scholarship Fund

On Memorial Day weekend over 100 AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) facilitators from around the country will gather on Long Island for their annual meeting and national conference.

AVP began in New York with the collaborative effort of Quakers and inmates at Green Haven Correctional Facility, and AVP is currently offered in dozens of prisons throughout the state. New York City is home to the greatest concentration of formerly incarcerated AVPer's in the USA. We therefore have the opportunity to make this conference accessible to many individuals who became involved with AVP while incarcerated.

The site is within commuting distance of the city, allowing daily attendance without the cost of on-site housing. Many formerly incarcerated facilitators will require assistance with registration fees. We are appealing to Ithaca Monthly Meeting to help provide scholarship support. What can you offer?

\$35 = one day registration

\$100 = full conference registration for a commuter

\$500 = full conference registration for five commuters

We hope to raise funds for 25 full-conference commuter scholarships. Checks can be made out to AVPNY with "conference scholarship" in the subject line. Send donations to: AVP-NY; PO Box 54; Poplar Ridge, NY 13139.

What's Going on at Powell House?

Powell House is a wonderful retreat center for Friends in our region. They offer weekend workshops with opportunities for rest, renewal, good food, and satisfying enjoyment. (Workshop fees include room and board.) Visit www.powellhouse.org for more information about these May workshops:

Listening for Muses (music & listening), May 8-10

Radical Simplicity Retreat: The Art, Science & Practice of Deeply Sustainable & Equitable Living, May 15-17

Transormations (for 6-7th graders), May 8-10

EarthSong (for 8-12th graders), May 22-24

In Our Community

Part-Time Position in Exchange Program

The ASPECT Foundation, which has sponsored Sue Wolf's exchange student Yunis Mokbel, is looking for someone to fill the local International Coordinator's position. The Foundation is committed to building bridges between countries and individuals, and to furthering the cause of peace. The International Coordinator is the person who arranges for a small group of international high school students to come to the Ithaca area as exchange students. The position is very part-time, and is a paid position. Sue Wolf has further information on the duties and responsibilities as well as the payment arrangement for this position if you are interested. Please contact her at QuakerWolf@gmail.com or at 272-1618.

Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

We each have something to contribute to the global healing process, a particular gift or vision, skill or song. Individual healing has a lot to do with finding this gift and using it for the world's sake, finding our song and singing it. In the process, a largeness of self breaks out of the chains and prison of the ego's isolation. This brings balance and compassion, which are the major ingredients of healing.

When we find a way to manifest our gift and give it to the world, no matter how small or large it may seem, we are made whole. We find a way to be a channel for the dark emotional energy in the world, a channel that balances the dark and the light of existence. And in so doing, we become fuller, we fill up with compassion: we become so full that we want to spill over with it, to extend it.

We find that compassion, though not always about pleasure, is a good way to live, a way that keeps us connected to others, to life. And in our connectedness, we find wholeness. This, to me, is what individual healing is all about.

At the same time the world calls out for a rebalancing of its emotional ecology. We are called to see into the darkness of our brokenhearted world, to recover our capacity to feel and know with our hearts, to act collectively, from this place of compassion. In harmonizing our culture's dissociative splits between head and heart, mind and body, spirit and nature, self-interest and the collective good, we come to an understanding of healing that goes beyond the individual and beyond the facile appeal of a spiritual bypass of the dark.

A healed life is always a work in progress, not a life devoid of all traces of suffering, but a life lived fully, deeply, and authentically, compassionately engaged with the world.

— Miriam Greenspan

Note: Greenspan is the plenary speaker at Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology May 22-25; register at: fcrp.quaker.org or talk to Melody Johnson, Dick Crepeau, or Peg Walbridge.

Akwesasne Freedom School Benefit May 3rd

The NYYM Indian Affairs Committee supports the Akwesasne Freedom School and its programs. The school, which is located on the Mohawk reservation near Canada, teaches all subjects in Mohawk using a Mohawk curriculum as a way to preserve the language, culture and traditions. There will be a local concert to benefit this school on the afternoon of Sunday, May 3rd from 1 until about 6. This will be held in the handsome amphitheater (rain location: the gym) at the Lehman Alternative Community School, 111 Chestnut Street.

Music includes Mohawk singer Bear Fox, Richie Stearns, Malang, Lydia Garrison, Joe Damiago, Pat Burke, Nate Richardson, and Kevin Kinsella. There will be fry bread and other dishes, childcare, and information about various Native and environmental issues.

Suggested Donation is \$8, with kids under 10 free. For more information, call 274-2126.

Minutes of the April 2009
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tom Brown, Clerk
Steve Mohlke, Assistant Clerk
Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, co-Recording Clerks
Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Recording Clerk.

200904.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on April 5, 2009, in the Cafe, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40 p.m., 16 F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read from the NYYM Advices and Queries for April (available in the IMM newsletter). The Minutes were read from the March Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting. @

200904.2 Charge for Earthcare Committee. Margaret McCasland proposed the following minute for the charge for the Earthcare Committee:

"The Earthcare Committee will facilitate the consideration of Earthcare-related concerns within the life of Ithaca Monthly Meeting on an ongoing basis. The Committee will build on the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship (SPICES), among other sources, to inspire and inform our work and outreach on Earthcare. The Committee will promote and facilitate mindfulness with f/Friends regarding actions we can take personally, as committees within IMM, as a Meeting, and as part of the wider community. The Earthcare Committee will also work with wider Quaker bodies and other public and private organizations to address Earthcare and eco-justice concerns locally, regionally, and nationally. The Committee will make recommendations to the Meeting for budget allocations to local, national, and international Quaker and other environmental and eco-justice organizations. This Committee is open to members and attenders. Official members of the Committee can be either members or attenders and will serve 3 year terms. The initial convener will help the committee establish a structure for coordination, for example, selecting a Clerk, etc." APPROVED @

200904.3 Charge for Publicity Committee. The charge for the publicity committee was laid over to May because the current version was not available. @

200904.4 Examining relationships with and contributions to Regional and Yearly Meetings. Marilyn Ray presented background information on these issues and suggested two alternative ways MM might decide to proceed to address the concerns about the relationships and communications with and financial contributions to NYYM and FSRM. After discussion the following minute was APPROVED:

"Representatives to both NYYM and FSRM will increase their reporting on projects, issues, and concerns including individuals'

stories of what their connections to either or both NYYM and FSRM have meant at MM, in the Newsletter; and by providing an occasional Adult Discussion on NYYM and/or FSRM related issues and concerns, including financial reports." @

200904.5 Request from CALM. Kathy Beisner brought to MM a proposal that \$500 for the support of the Young Friends in Residence program. Bronwyn Mohlke provided the following background for the request: the program would bring Powell House type programming to children in 6-9th grades from Monthly Meetings in western NY one weekend per month. The programming will be provided by four interns ages 18-25, and be hosted at PCMM. NYYM has agreed to support the program and PCMM is seeking additional foundation and Meeting support. The Finance Committee has considered the request and indicated that funds for the request are available in MM wishes to support the program. APPROVED @

200904. 6. Finance Committee report. Steve Mohlke brought forward the following proposal from the Finance Committee:

"We transfer \$1,500 from the General Reserve Fund to the Special Needs Fund to pay for Interpreter Services for the balance of the year, and that Ministry and Oversight take responsibility for approving expenditures from the Special Needs fund and coordinate availability of interpreters with Roberta Merrill." APPROVED @

200904. 7 Social Justice Committee Report. Ginny Gartlein reported for the Committee that SJC had decided to donate money in the amount of \$365 raised by the sale of fair trade coffee to the Earth care Committee to cover start up. This money will be used for the following: \$200 to Quaker Earth Care Witness for Rua and Lewis' bus fare to Ithaca and back to Burlington VT for the presentation in March; \$50 for donation to Quaker Earth Care Witness to buy a Meeting membership and the BeFriending Creation newsletter; \$37 for purchase of resources for meeting, including, "Walking Gently on the Earth," Course guide for Meeting in caring for creation, and curriculum for CALM for children and Earthcare; and \$78 for purchase of washable cups and other place setting items to improve the sustainability of Meeting functions such as brunch. APPROVED @

200904.8 Treasurer's report. Steve Mohlke reported on the treasurer's activities during March. Friends Received the Report. @

200904.9 Peace Witness Committee Report. Mac Larsen reported that Peace Witness had approved \$100 for the TAP fund from the segment of its funds requiring Meeting approval. APPROVED @

At 2:30 p.m., 14 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on May 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk
April 2009*

Queries

For your contemplation from *NYYM Faith & Practice*:

Query 4. Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?

Query 5. Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?

May 2009 Calendar

Every Sunday

Note: Melody is no longer leading singing before Meeting

Through May 17th:

11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages.

11:15a Children leave Edwards Room for **First Day School**.

Starting May 24th:

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages.

10:45a Children go outside for **First Day School**.

Other Weekly IMM Events

Tues 9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home.

Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burtt House.

Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts.

Monthly Events of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

May 3rd (Special Date)

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**. Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, by April 28th.

May 24th

Rise of Mtg **Dish-to-pass brunch** following our first Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse. Please bring finger foods to share.

May Events (*For more information about asterisked items, see inside.)

May 1, Friday

6p **Retreat Planning Meeting** at Clarkbergs, 150 Giles.*

May 3, Sunday

11:15-12n **Power Quakers** gather outside Edwards Room.

Rise of Mtg **Social Justice** Committee in the cafe.*

May 6, Wednesday

1:15-3p Volunteers needed at **Kitchen Cupboard**. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-2471). Kitchen Cupboard regularly needs brown paper bags.

May 7, Thursday

5:30-8p **Program Committee** at the Burtt House.

May 12 Tuesday

7:30p **Peace Witness** Committee at the Burtt House.*

May 17, Sunday

11:15-12n **Power Quakers** gather outside Edwards Room.

May 26, Tuesday

7:15p **Meeting for Healing**, 112 Mt. Pleasant Road.*

Inspirations from the Burtt House — Thea Clarkberg

Waterfall

Milky white

Curtains flow

Over rock cliffs and,

Oh, the ROAR!

Hawks

They soar above,

Black figures in the sky,

Their wings cutting

Edges in deep blue.