



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2010

IMM CONTACTS

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Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with body of the message as simply:

join

Events:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Newsletter Submissions Due May 27th

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Rini Clarkberg:
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
607-279-4722 • mec30@cornell.edu

Family Friendly Meetings

— *Kathie Scanlon, Bulls Head-Oswego Monthly Meeting*

Although the weather outside was blustery enough to fell tree limbs on the property of our beloved Powell House, the atmosphere inside the Family Friendly Meeting Conference was warm. Friends from through the NY Yearly Meeting were led by Christie Duncan-Tessmer from Philadelphia YM. Christie brought enthusiasm and a can-do spirit to those gathered to share the concern of building community in their monthly meetings.

We discussed the difference between accommodation and integration and between intergenerational and multigenerational. Christy defines multigenerational this way: “A multigenerational community is about asking its members to recognize the power, gifts, the fun and potential of all its members, regardless of their age. It asks us to be accountable to and respectful of each other even if we wiggle a lot or talk a long time.” Sometimes we want and need to be intergenerational—twens and teens may want to have some time separate from adults—engaging in our own activities concurrently. Too often I see two communities, an adult and a youth, each carrying on work uninformed and uninfluenced by the other.

Christy gave good leads for how to introduce our desire for a multigenerational community into our meetings.

- Put it on the agenda at meeting for business.
- Involve Ministry & Counsel in the concern of nurturing all and calling on our gifts.
- Model it—be multigenerational in your committees, in meeting for worship, at social hour, at Friendly bunches. Interact with Friends in the manner of Friends.
- Run a trial project—plan an event with multigenerational participation. Welcome all into a committee to work together in a way that accesses everyone’s talents and interests.
- Consider the physical space of your

Family Friendly, continued on page 2

The Purple Ribbon

Mary Tang is a writer who has worked tirelessly for peace, human rights and the environment. She is also a friend of Margaret McCasland, who submitted this poem and writes, “it seems especially appropriate for Mother’s Day (which in this country was originally a day of peace and reconciliation).”

I used to wear a purple ribbon
to show the world I cared.

A badge of honour, that purple ribbon;
“Peace, not war,” it declared.

A woman beside me quietly said,
“My son, he’s in the war.

It’s not his fault,” she quietly said;
“the army is the law.

“It pains me to see the purple ribbon,
it shames me that he is there.

A badge of shame, that purple ribbon,
yet I see it everywhere.”

Taking her hand, I released my ribbon
to show a mother I cared.

To wish for peace, I need no ribbon,
a wish all mothers shared.

— *Mary Tang*
marymanlan@mac.com
Sydney, Australia

meeting. Is there seating in meeting for worship that fits everyone's different physical needs? Are the bathrooms child/family friendly? Are supplies stored with the safety and accessibility of all in mind?

- Ask each committee to consider how it nurtures youth. Are their gifts being recognized and called out? Are we teaching our children Quaker process?
- Look for those in your meeting who share your concern for a multigenerational community and enlist their supportive and active participation in multigenerational actions.

Some successful ideas or stepping stones to becoming multigenerational were shared: plant a garden, cook a meal together for the meeting or to share with those in need, make sure it is an activity that is of interest to all the Friends involved—just as adults follow a leading and use their already developed skills to contribute, we can have no different expectation of youth. “I can't balance my checkbook. No one would ask me to be treasurer”; don't ask a child to sit through two hours of talking.

WiFFLeS is a handy acronym to remember the opportunities for community within our meetings.

W = Meeting for worship. How do we gather to worship together? Is there time for all Friends to experience the gatheredness of meeting? What does our structuring of worship time communicate to Friends?

F = Meeting for fellowship. Do we gather as a community to learn about each other's joys and concerns, our lives outside of meeting? Do we socialize as Friends, looking for the Light in each? Or do we socialize in a “worldly” manner assigning importance by age, occupation, common interest?

F = Meeting for fun. Can we have fun together, can we allow ourselves to play? And if not can we sit and enjoy ourselves through those who can play?

L = Meeting for learning. What opportunities do we have in our meeting to learn together? Is there religious education for children only? Do adults believe that children can be teachers, and do the adults allow themselves to learn?

S = Meeting for service. This means community service as well as meeting for business and committee meetings. All of these are the translation of love into action. When this work is not Spirit led, we are responsible to speak.

And last, make it your priority to know the names of the Friends in your meeting and one important thing about them. Ask yourself if you know only the adults or only the children or only those who share your own socially designated grouping. Perhaps a way to begin is to share this article with someone; ask a young Friend to share her insights. Perhaps your reward for taking this risk will be the occasion to see that of God in another and so discover a little more of your own Light.

Your Comments Welcome

In the deep recesses of the basement of our new building, hidden amidst all the clutter and debris, was a shoebox full of comment cards left by patrons of the Pangea restaurant. While the comments were written by customers from a decade ago, imagine if such things could be said about the next occupants of 120 Third St: the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

“This place is Ithaca's best kept secret!”

“Great – our favorite place.”

“Wonderful”

“Everything was extraordinary”

“We're happy!”

“Delightful! We'll be back.”

“Extremely satisfying first visit!”

“Terrific! Make more desserts.”

“Good job!”

“Great, as usual! Happy Valentine's Day!”

“Everything was singularly delightful! Thanks!”

“Yummy :)”

“Christa is great”

“Keep up the great work”

— Melissa Travis Dunham



Konrad Simon St. Laurent arrives

Angelika and Simon and their daughter Sungiva received baby Konrad on Sunday, April 25th, not so long after attending Meeting for Worship! Welcome Konrad!

Announcements

Staying Informed About the Meetinghouse

A concern has been raised about keeping friends who are not on the meeting listserve informed about the progress of our meetinghouse project. A lot of information has been and will be shared on the listserve, so anyone who wishes to stay current might want to consider subscribing.

If you would like to subscribe, see the instructions on the left sidebar of the first page of the newsletter, or let Tom Brown know and he will help you. If the listserv is not an option for you, hard copies of what is being shared will be available in a notebook kept in the meeting closet in the Edwards room.

Let Melody Johnson, 272-8755, know if you have any other concerns about staying informed!

Clearing Out the New Building

On April 18th, our clerk Steve Mohlke wrote to the listserv:

On behalf of the entire Meeting I would like to extend thanks to the forty plus people, including at least half a dozen youth, who came out to clean out our new Meetinghouse today. Everything that could be moved was dealt with in some manner. We hauled five pickup truck/trailer loads of chairs and other furnishings to storage until we are ready for them. We grouped other items of value into the future Meeting Room for additional sorting and for sale to ourselves and then the community. The entire second floor and basement were cleared out. The courtyards were cleaned up. Several of us met various neighbors. Some neighbors even offered to help. Christa Bissell, our Real Estate Agent, came by and helped for a while. I noticed lots of people working together who, I'm quite sure, didn't know each other very well before today. It seemed that every time I turned around I noticed someone else making an impressive contribution.

Then on April 29th and 30th, Ithaca Monthly Meeting held a sale. Friends from Meeting and from the community bought tools, glassware, pots & pans, and many assorted items, generating something around \$1700 to be put towards meetinghouse renovation costs. There are a few larger items (such as "Bertha," the standing mixer) that may yet be sold. Other items that did not sell were donated or otherwise disposed of.

Thus, the building that formerly housed Pangea is now essentially empty and ready for the demolition that is the first stage in turning this structure into the new home of Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

Quaker Basics planned for Fall 2010

The IMM Program Committee has issued a call for interest in presenting a Quaker Basics series. We did have some interest shared with us; however, things are pretty busy at this time. Therefore, we will be offering the series but not until fall 2010. Look for announcements starting in September 2010.

Violet Goncarovs to Visit Ramallah in June

In June, Young Adult Friend Violet Goncarovs is traveling to Israel and Palestine with a Peace Delegation organized through the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

The official purposes of the trip are to strengthen the connections between U.S. Friends and Ramallah Friends Meeting, the Friends International Center in Ramallah and with Ramallah Friends Schools; to foster relationships with youth participating in AFSC programs in the region; and to experience Quaker values in action within the context of the Israel Palestine conflict. On a more personal level, this delegation is part of Violet's growing peace witness and serves as the starting point for what she hopes will be a life-long dedication to peace work.

In late May, Violet and her family will be hosting a benefit concert and reception to help raise money for the delegation. Time and location is currently TBA. Questions, donations, and words of support are gratefully welcomed: Violet Goncarovs c/o Burt House, 227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850, vgoncar1@ithaca.edu, 607-342-6658.

Young Friends Perform in Bailey Hall

Alma Mohlke was one of three 8th graders chosen to compose a piece for the Boynton Middle School band. Alma's composition is called Morning Star, and it will be performed at the Boynton spring concert. Alma will also be playing a solo on her bassoon, Sonata in F Minor by Georg Philipp Telemann. Other Ithaca Friends in the band include Kieran Loehr and Jasper White. There is no charge for the concert. The Boynton Middle School Band's spring concert will be in Bailey Hall, Cornell University, on May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

ACT: Aftermath of Haiti's Earthquake

Ithaca Monthly Meeting is a part of a group called ACT, for Area Congregations Together. The annual meeting of ACT will feature Dr. Ken Hover, professor of civil engineering at Cornell, whose photographs and "Stories of Haiti" in the aftermath of the January earthquake will invite reflection on our responses to disaster and human need. Join us at the First Congregational Church, 309 Hihgland Road, May 5th at 7pm.

Quakers in the British Virgin Islands

Elsbeth Rhodin sent in a brief account of Joohn Coakley Lettsom, the founder of the London Medical Society and a Quaker abolitionist from the BVI. Friends might like to know that Lettsom had a sugar plantation at Cane Garden Bay (where Jasper Clarkberg, Laurel Wolfe and Rosie Altucher will visit with the LACS cafe crew this summer) in addition to larger cotton holdings in Little Jost Van Dyke. A team of graduate students from Berkeley is re-searching the Lettsom family and hopes to shed light on the Quaker community that once thrived in the British Virgin Islands.

Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology

Since 1943 the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology has provided a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner world.

This year's speaker Jeff Kripal, a scholar of comparative mysticism, will address a subject of particular interest to Quakers: the mystical roots of American spirituality. In four plenaries, Jeff plans to explore "a submerged, but very old and very powerful American story: the story of the Divine spark, the absolute integrity of the individual human soul, and its direct, unmediated relationship to the Divine."

FICRP participants also choose an Interest Group for the weekend to help process insights through discussion, art materials, writing, dreams, or bodywork.

Come indulge in food for thought and soul growth-and Quaker worship: May 28-31, 2010 at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA. To learn more and register: <http://fcrp.quaker.org>.

Bible Study with Friends

Anna Obermeyer is convening a Bible study group at Beloved Community House (599 Trumbulls Corners Road, Newfield) at 7:00 pm the last Tuesday of each month. All are welcome, no prior knowledge of the Bible is needed. This is the schedule for all of the upcoming Bible Studies:

May 25th: The Day of Pentecost: Acts 2:00-3:00

June 29th: Faith Through Works : The Letter of James

July 27th: The Woman At the Well: Gospel of John 4:00-5:00

August 31st: God's Community of Love: First Letter of John

Sept 28th: The Coming of the Kingdom of God: Revelation 21:00-22:00

Oct 26th: Martha, Mary, and Lazarus: Luke 10:40-10:41 and John 11:00-12:00

Nov 29th: The Sermon on the Mount: Gospel of Matthew 5:00-6:00

Bible Study runs about an hour and a half long, but Friends should be prepared for it go a little over. Snack will be provided! Feel free to do the reading before coming to the Bible study sessions, but you do not have to do so. Whatever your approach, always come to the text with respect and an open mind. Contact Anna Obermeyer (anna.e.obermeyer@gmail.com) with your questions.

Minutes of the April 11, 2010 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Steve Mohlke, Clerk

Tonia Saxon, Assistant Clerk

Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerks

Mike Simkin, 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.)

201004.1 Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 11, 2010, in the Cafe, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University. At 12:35 p.m., 13 Friends settled into worship.

Clerk introduced the Friends who would hold the Meeting in the Light during our Worship with Attention to Business: Sue Ruff, Heather Ruff, and Alexa Yesukevich. Clerk reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting, and read Advice #3 and Query #2 from NYYM's Faith and Practice (also printed in the Newsletter for April 2010).

201004.2 Consent Agenda

Clerk described what a consent agenda is and asked Meeting to consent without discussion to Michael Trotti's resignation from the Project management Committee due to other commitments. APPROVED @

201004.3 Ministry and Worship

To give some context for the M&W proposal, Clerk read the Minute approved at the 200907 Monthly Meeting regarding having two people present at each Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business who have the only concern of holding the Meeting in the Light.

Carolyn Kenyon proposed the following Minute from Ministry and Worship, which was APPROVED:

Since July, we have experimented with having two people present who have only one purpose, "being a centered presence, holding the body in prayer in order to better ground the group in the Spirit". We found this practice increases the spiritual depth of our meetings for business and facilitates spiritual discernment. Ministry and Worship will be responsible for seeking individuals to hold meetings for business in the Light. IMM agrees to extend the practice of having two people hold business meetings in the Light. @

201004.4 Trustees Report

A. Tonia Saxon read Hector Meetinghouse Cemetery Policies recommended by Trustees and developed by the ad hoc Hector Meetinghouse Cemetery Policy Committee:

The cemetery is for the use of the Meeting Community only. There will be no sales of plots, and there is no promise of perpetual care.

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Minutes, continued from page 4

The Meeting Community includes all members, active attenders, their spouses, parents and children.

Without reconsideration by the Meeting, the cemetery shall not occupy more than half the depth of the property.

The cemetery shall be filled in an orderly fashion, based upon consultation with the Hector Meeting House Committee.

Headstones (markers) shall be at the west end of each plot.

Headstones should be simple, in keeping with the others, and no larger than and no larger than (18 inches wide, 12 inches deep, 20 inches high - these dimensions are similar to the majority of older stones and include the bases and top stones; families should be encouraged to measure existing stones).

Each plot should run east and west and be approximately 3'x4'. Family members may share one plot. There will be only one headstone per plot, but if desired, horizontal stones may be used within the plot.

There will be no whole body burials, only cremains will be buried.

There will be no mechanical diggers, the Hector Meeting House Committee will assist the family in hand digging.

We encourage the use of biodegradable containers.

We encourage families to plant and maintain flowers, no trees or shrubs will be planted.

Any requests for exceptions to the policies described above regarding use of the cemetery should be referred to the IMM Hector Meeting House Committee.

(We are researching the possibility of a Memorial Wall and Garden and will be putting together a proposal to that effect. This will provide an option besides traditional plots and headstones. The wall would also help delineate the southern edge of the cemetery.)

Respectfully submitted,

Hector Meeting House Cemetery Policy Committee

Melody Johnson (clerk), Ellie Rosenberg, Sue Ruff, Jan Kelly-Philpot, and Martin Jolles

APPROVED @

B. Marilyn Ray reported that the closing date had been postponed due to the need for the seller's attorney to clarify a fence on one of the easements to the property and the outstanding debts against the property. It is hoped the closing will be later this week.

Trustees approved establishing the following two Task Groups:

- 1) A Building Contents Task Group to (a) sort the existing contents of the Madison Street property, (b) decide what is to be kept, sold, or otherwise disposed of and (c) to locate and put into storage items to be kept. Melody will be point person for volunteers for this Task Group.
- 2) A Community Outreach Task Group to visit neighbors in groups of two to introduce the meeting. Marilyn will be point person for volunteers for this Task Group.

Trustees will use the following forms of communication about progress on the new meetinghouse with members and attenders:

- a. Hard copies of relevant materials will be made available in a notebook kept at Meeting.

- b. Individuals will be asked if they want non-electronic communications with follow up on an individual basis regarding announcements and documents. Melody Johnson will figure out a way to get alternative sources for information to those who need it.
- c. For those who use the web and email, we will post messages to keep people informed both on the IMM list serve and on our web site.

Friends received the report. @

201004.5 Report from the Project Management Committee

Tonia Saxon read a report that the Project Management Committee (PMC) has begun contacting potential contractors and mailing them the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) that Lynn Truame developed. PMC is expecting to receive RFQs and sort through them to develop a short list to present at the Called Meeting for Business on April 25, 2010. Friends received the report. @

201004.6 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin presented the report for March 2010. He reported the creation of a new fund for the "Third Street Meetinghouse" under the Meetinghouse Fund. Finance Committee and Treasurer are in the process of shifting money into that fund and cash for use in the purchase and renovations of the new Meetinghouse. Friends received the report. @

201004.7 Concerns of Individuals

No individual concerns were raised. @

At 1:30, 12 Friends returned to unprogrammed worship before adjourning.

IMM will have a Called Meeting for Business to explore next steps on April 25, 2010 following the rise of Meeting for Worship. The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held following the rise of Meeting on May 2, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ray, co-Recording Clerk

Spiritual Discernment from Ministry & Worship

A typical group will have strong and forceful personalities who know a lot about how things should be done. It will have quiet individuals inclined to withhold their thoughts and discernments, but who have excellent ideas. Most groups will have a troublesome person or two.

There is no such thing as a perfect group. We all become part of the miracle of being God's people just as we are. Everyone and every group is a mix of glory and brokenness—and that's why any group that gathers to be faithful to God's motions must begin with simple humility.

— *Practicing Discernment Together*
by Lon Fendall

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 4. Friends are advised to observe our Christian testimony for a faithful ministry of the gospel under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Members are reminded that all have a responsibility in ministry.

Query 3. Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?

May 2009 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Please also see the on-line calendar at <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 2, Rise of Meeting

Agenda items should be provided to Steve Mohlke, clerk, by the preceding Wednesday. (Contact information is on page 1.)

Called Meeting to Focus on Meetinghouse Issues Sunday, May 16, Rise of Meeting

Agenda items should be provided to Steve Mohlke, clerk, by the preceding Wednesday. (Contact information is on page 1.)

Women's Fellowship Friday, May 21, 7p

Please join us at 7pm in the space formerly occupied by ABC Cafe at 310 Stewart Avenue. All are welcome. Have dinner or tea or baked goods... or not.

Spring Gathering Friday, May 21- Sunday, May 23

The Farmington-Scipio Region of New York Yearly Meeting convenes for Spring Gathering, a joyful weekend of learning, reflection and community at Long Point Camp on the shores of beautiful Seneca Lake, just north of Watkins Glen. For more information about the event, visit the regional meeting website: www.quakerwny.com. Look for the section on "Spring Gathering at Long Point Camp".

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, May 22, 10:30a

The Peace Witness Committee is an open committee of the Meeting. All are welcome to join us at the Burtt House as we work to bring Quaker peace witness into our lives and our community. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Schneider at 273-3566 or neschneid@aol.com.

Meeting for Worship moves to Hector Sunday, May 30, 10:30a

May 23rd will be the last Sunday we meet at Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell campus for the season. When we meet at Hector Meetinghouse (on Perry City Road), Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30am, and there is no formal First Day School program. (Children are welcome to play outside, behind the meetinghouse.)

Called Meeting to Focus on Meetinghouse Issues Tuesday, June 1, 7p

This called meeting will be held at the Burtt House, 227 Willard Way in Ithaca. Agenda items should be provided to Steve Mohlke, clerk, by the preceding Wednesday.

Mother Blessing for Melissa Mueller Saturday, June 12, 3p

In anticipation of welcoming a new baby to our Meeting, there will be a Mother Blessing for Melissa Mueller on Saturday, June 12, at 3:00 pm at the home of Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau. Women, men, and children are welcome to come join in the time together to help Melissa and Ernest prepare for the arrival of their baby in late June. More details to come in the June newsletter. For more information, contact Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu) or Melody Johnson (272-8755 / rcrepea1@twcny.rr.com).

Every Sunday

- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages (beginning May 30th, Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30a)
- 11:15a Children are invited to join **First Day School** classes gathering outside the Edwards Room (beginning May 30th, there will be no First Day School classes)

Other Weekly IMM Events

- 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