



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2010

IMM CONTACTS

Clerk:

Steve Mohlke
52 Gray Road • Ithaca NY 14850
607-216-8411
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
3137 Jacksonville Road
Trumansburg NY 14886
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

Ministry & Worship:

Carolyn Kenyon
607-273-7922 • ckenyon@twcny.rr.com

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ginny Gartlein • 607-272-3471

Burt House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-5421

Listserv:

To join our email list 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 September 30th

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

Quakers Make Big Splash at Treman



For more pictures, visit ithacamonthlymeeting.org/gallery/meeting-retreat-2010/

“What are you doing here?” asked a visitor to the pavilion at Robert Treman Park last week, surveying the craft space spread out over the planks of the picnic tables.

“The Ithaca Quaker Meeting is having our kids’ camp here,” we said.

“Oh, are you the orange people?” she asked.

Our t-shirts were bright orange this year, and served as an instant identifier even from great distances.

Robert Treman Park’s facilities were so beautifully suited for camp that many have made up their minds it should be held there again next year. We turned to the park after the purchase of the new meetinghouse made it look as if the Meeting might decide to sell the Route 79 land (which, several months later, it did). After years of holding camp with Porta-potties, no electricity, a wedding tent, and rented chairs and tables, we enjoyed the luxuries on of-

fer at Treman. The cabins were equipped with small refrigerators to keep our eggs cold—real breakfast every morning instead of cold cereal! The pavilion had work space to spread out in and offered a cool place to spend the afternoons. Best of all, there were see-saws in the play area, perhaps the very last see-saws anywhere in our lawsuit-conscious state; and at the end of every meal, a group of small, orange-t-shirt-clad children ran to them at top speed.

With many borrowed copies of *Rise Up Singing*, we learned several new songs in anticipation of the Peter and Annie Blood-Patterson concert on September 18th. (*The Cat Came Back*, with its cartoon-brutal lyrics, quickly became a favorite.) We learned how to make latch-hook rugs and made friendship bracelets and drew and painted. We took part in a scavenger hunt with hidden clues on the trail to Upper Treman. Three dogs attended camp, too, and were taken for innumerable walks.

Retreat, continued on page 2

We worshipped together under the hemlocks. This year one of the parents offered us several sessions of informal guided meditation. We learned to listen to silence in different ways and to become more sensitive to the feeling of the group as a whole; we felt the circle of children and adults drawing us back in when we stepped away. The sharing from the children during these sessions was heartfelt, funny, and sometimes very wise.

What about next year—our retreat's ten-year anniversary? The buildings at Treman are one step off the ground, the terrain is fairly even, and parking is convenient. In 2011 we are hoping that our retreat widens to include families and individuals who don't have children, but who like the idea of spending several slow-paced days under the hemlocks in the company of Friends. You will be hearing more about this possibility next spring.

— Tonia Saxon

The Project Management Committee Asks: Are We Ready to Proceed with Renovation?

Meeting is now in receipt of a revised, more accurate estimate of the costs associated with renovating the 3rd Street building to our specifications. This new estimate—close to \$390,000—exceeds our initial rough estimate by about \$60,000. More importantly, the new figure exceeds our estimates of our current ability to pay by something close to that amount.

The Project Management Committee, charged with serving as a liaison between the meeting and the architect and contractors, has proposed several reductions in the scope of the project that would bring the contract in line with our resources. The most costly of these cuts include:

- Removing all interior and exterior painting from the scope of work, saving \$30,000
- Removing finish flooring upstairs from the scope of work leaving only a smooth luaun (plywood) underlayment, saving \$14,400

These two substantial cuts and a handful of smaller eliminations could reduce the expected expense by \$60,000, bringing expected costs in line with expected assets. The Project Management Committee believes that the items removed from the contract either hold some potential for us to do ourselves (such as interior painting) or could be deferred for a period without preventing us from occupying the space.

At our Meeting for Business on September 12, Meeting will be asked to approve moving forward with renovation and signing a formal contract with our preferred contractor, Latipac Construction.

For more information on the Project Management Committee's thinking, please see the on-line report (shared at an informational meeting at the Burt House on August 31) available here:

<ithacamonthlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Meetinghouse-Project-Finances-2010-08-28.pdf>

Farmington-Scipio Region Fall Gathering includes discussion of "fracking"

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting looks forward to hosting Fall Gathering on September 18, and presents the following agenda:

- 9:30 am: Arrivals, refreshments, greetings.
- 10:00 am: "Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale Gas: A discussion of how these activities may affect our communities" See below.
- Noon: Lunch - Bring a sandwich if you wish. Soup, cheese, crackers, fruit and beverages provided.
- 1:00 pm: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- 4:00 pm: Departures and farewell

The meetinghouse is just east of Route 34B, four miles east of Aurora, NY at 1868 Poplar Ridge Road in Poplar Ridge. A link to directions is at available here: www.quaker.org/poplar/Directions.html

Please find parking behind the meeting-house or use overflow parking west of meetinghouse in neighboring school lot.

For hospitality, please call or email Helen Hebben 315-364-7960/<ehh2@cornell.edu> by September 12: For childcare, call or email with number and ages of children: Sally Otis 315-364-8102/ sotis3067@gmail.com by September 12

Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale Gas

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) consists of pumping a fluid and a propping material such as sand down the well under high pressure to create fractures in the gas-bearing rock. The fracturing of a horizontal well can use more than 3.5 million gallons of water and 400 tons of sand. Fracking additives may include friction reducers, biocides, surfactants, and scale inhibitors. Hydrochloric acid is also used as part of the fracturing process.

Development of this extensive resource could be a major economic boon to individual landowners and the battered New York economy. The gas could replace more environmentally harmful fuels such as oil and coal and lessen U.S. dependence upon foreign oil.

Please join us for an informative presentation by a local geologist on the various aspects of drilling and fracturing of gas wells in New York.

Topics for discussion:

1. How will the gas-industry activity be regulated?
2. What economic benefits are expected, and what environmental and social challenges will we face?
3. What are the concerns for landowners and communities?
4. What should be considered in leasing and royalty agreements with gas companies?

The Worlds in My Mother's Room

I sat in my mother's room today
listening to Bach and her breath.
My sister says the veil is thin in there
and I think she's right.

When I was praying to the Goddess
I warned her She would need a
larger party room and lots more Brie.
Room for all the people, cats, dogs, lizards, ponies,
and creatures whose names should not be spoken
lightly.

So we sit in Mom's room, in this world
laughing and reminiscing and missing her already,
we celebrate all that her life has held.
And we can almost hear, in that world
the many Folk celebrating and preparing
for her joyous arrival.

That is when, in leaving her home,
it feels as though we are stepping out
of a womb.
And it is odd to see people eating, driving cars,
drinking deeply of the summer day.
Walking around as though the world
beyond the veil doesn't even exist.

Today I told my mother I had to go, but I would return.
I told her we needed one more day.
Would she promise us one more day,
so we could be with her? With her.
The veil is so thin.

I said,
"I love you most of all, Mommy."
And I looked for signs, on her sleeping face,
that she was still on this side.
Reaching across all the worlds in her room,
eyes closed tight (ah, what she must be seeing),
Mom softly whispered,
"I love you too."

*Melanie-Claire Mallison
Daughter #3*

*Written around 10 p.m., Saturday, July 31, 2010
Carolyn Murray Weddell Kulka Mallison died
at 2:10 a.m. Sunday, August 1, 2010*

Carolyn Mallison's Memorial Service

Thank you so much for all your cards and condolences regarding the loss of our mother Carolyn. As you can imagine, it's been a difficult and emotional time, and your support has been very encouraging, inspiring and comforting.

Please reserve the afternoon of Saturday, November 20, for a memorial and celebration of Carolyn's life. The event will be held here in Ithaca and will include a pot-luck meal and memorial service. For those who can stay longer, there could be raucous music and wild dancing as well. Details will be forthcoming.

In addition, if you'll be attending NYYM at Silver Bay in 2011 and can not join us on November 20, a service will be held there as well.

In the meantime, we'd like to collect written memories, stories, and favorite Carolyn quotations. Whether you plan to attend the memorial or not, we welcome your contribution of an anecdote, or some words about what Mom meant to you.

Hugs to you all....

— Carol, Robin and Melanie

A reflection from Ethel Aboagye's Malawi trip

Ethel Aboagye is an Ithaca College student from Ghana who traveled to Malawi with the assistance of Friends from our Meeting.

Ethel asked that I let everyone know "how much I appreciated their help with this trip because without their help I would have not had this excellent experience. Thank them for me as well".

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this trip. I am especially grateful to the Social Justice Committee for their contribution. I hope all may find her reflections on the trip, below, enlightening.

— Erica Weiss

The road to Malawi has been one that I will never forget because it showed me that there are still some people in this world who are willing to help out a stranger. Before embarking on this trip, I thought that I would never be able to raise the money to pay for the trip; but with the help of a couple of strangers and some of my family I was able to go on the trip. This is one experience that I am very happy to have had since it has taught me a lot about people and other cultures. [...]

While in Malawi, I felt free to be whoever I wanted to be because no one knew who I was. There was this feeling of being transported back to my homeland where everything was working with me. While I was there I felt more connected with God. For as long as I have known I haven't gone to church or prayed but there I felt this spiritual connection that I hadn't remembered feeling since I was in Ghana during bible classes. I really loved the way the Malawians made me feel a part of their world since they thought I was from Malawi. [...]

During the exercises, I had different feelings about what was going on around me. Sometimes, I was mad, sad and also had fear

Ethel's trip, continued on page 4

Ethel's trip, cont from page 3

within me but mostly was really excited. I was excited just to be in Africa again and also to go through this new experience of learning about this other country. When we went to the mobile clinic, I was shocked as to how many of the people were sick and didn't have the resources to go see a doctor. I was really glad that we were able to help in any way we could. After seeing how much they go through every day it made me appreciate my life and what I have. There were some moments that I felt like I would cry if I didn't leave the room that's why on most of our trips I liked stay-

ing in the back because I didn't want to see something that would make me break down such as the little boy in the hospital who was burnt. Also seeing how their health care system is not really stable was one of the shocking things I saw. This was one experience that I will never forget, it has taught me so much about life and how to go through life you have to appreciate everything and live like every day is your last. It also taught me to never be afraid to be who I am and never let anyone tell me who I need to be.

Thank you.

Rise Up Singing Benefit Concert & Silent Auction

The Rise Up Singing Sing Along Benefit Concert will be held on Saturday, September 18 at 7:00 pm at the St. Paul's Methodist Church.

Can you help sell tickets? Perhaps your coworkers or members of your book group would like to come. Friends who would like time have tickets to sell can contact Melissa Dunham, or email concert@ithacameeting.org

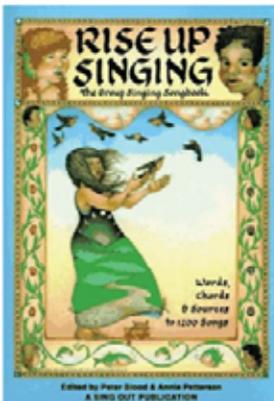
Perhaps you can post a flyer at your office. Flyers can be downloaded here: ithacamonthlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Blood-Concert.pdf

There will be many other ways that Friends can be part of this event. If you are interested in lending a hand, but are not sure what you would like to do, you are welcome to get in touch with Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu).

And don't forget the silent auction! If you are able to contribute to this, contact GinaVarrichio, zealth_1@yahoo.com, 272-2512.

Peter Blood & Annie Blood-Patterson

OF RISE UP SINGING
WILL PERFORM A SING-A-LONG
CONCERT



SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 7PM
ST PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH
AT COURT AND AURORA STREETS
• WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
• CHILDCARE PROVIDED
TICKETS BEGINNING AUGUST 15TH AT
GREENSTAR, GUITARWORKS & LUDGATES
\$15 IN ADVANCE, \$17 AT THE DOOR
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER:
\$5 IN ADVANCE, \$6 AT THE DOOR

PLUS:
• SILENT AUCTION
• BAKE SALE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL CONCERT@ITHACAMEETING.ORG

Ithaca Monthly Meeting at Porchfest

The annual Fall Creek Porchfest will take place on Sunday, September 12, 1-5:30pm and *we are on the schedule!*

We are hosting musical performances, group singing (good preparation and promotion for our the Rise Up Singing benefit concert, see left), and a bake sale at our new building at 3rd and Madison Streets. Wendy Wolfe (273-4324 / ww16@cornell.edu) or Susan Wolf (quakerwolf@gmail.com) are coordinating the performance. Rosie Altucher (moonbeamtaffy@gmail.com) is coordinating the bake sale.

The full schedule is on-line, here: www.porchfest.org

Where are they now?

It is such a delight to welcome new babies into our Meeting and then, over the years, to watch them grow. And then it often happens that they step away from us as they try out their wings somewhere else.

Bronwyn Mohlke recently compiled the following list of whereabouts for five recent departures:

- Eli Cadwallader - After a year in the Czech Republic, is now studying at Ithaca College
- Tessa Friedeborn - Enrolled at Westtown School in Philadelphia
- Andris Goncarovs - Starting the University of Buffalo
- Arianna White - Enrolling at Hobart and William Smith
- Gilbert White - Studying at University of Maryland, College Park

Driving to Help Others in Need

Volunteers are needed for jail transportation, a service which the Meeting provides for people with loved ones in the jail. Volunteering means driving one day or half day a month. Appointments are on Tuesdays and Saturdays and all travel is within the county. There is a small amount of reimbursement available for mileage if this is a need. The Meeting has been doing this supportive and caring service for nine years and we hope we can continue. It is much appreciated and needed. Contact Barbara Barry if you can help, fb12@cornell.edu or SOMENUMBER.

**Minutes of the August 8, 2010 Monthly 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.)

201008.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met for Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in the Hector meetinghouse, August 8, 2010. At 12:00 noon, 11 Friends gathered and settled into silence. Clerk extended our appreciation to Barbara Ganzel, who would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business. He read Advice #1 from Faith and Practice (August Newsletter).

201008.2 Sale of the Rt. 79 Property. Marilyn Ray read from the article published in the Newsletter for August from Trustees. Following discussion, Trustees proposed the following minute was APPROVED:

Trustees are instructed to sell the Rt. 79 property and to use the proceeds for the renovations of the new Meetinghouse. With the intent of conserving the property, Trustees are also instructed to attempt to sell the Rt. 79 property to the City of Ithaca and/or neighbors to the property. @

201008.3 Adornment in the Meeting Room. Clerk introduced the discussion of the gift of a stained glass panel for the New Meetinghouse by reading the minute from the Minutes of the July 11, 2010 Monthly Meeting which approved a Minute to Welcome a gift of stained glass for the entry foyer. He following proposed the following minute:

The Meeting Room should be plain with minimal adornment in order to convey the sense of simplicity of our faith to ourselves and others who may enter. With this in mind, we decline the offer of stained glass for the North window in the Meeting Room. We accept the original recommendation from our architect that the North windows be configured with "double-hung" windows as in the rest of the Meeting Room and Building. We rejoice in the opportunity for the rest of the building to reflect the talents of those who use it. With this in mind, we reaffirm our enthusiasm for accepting the offer of stained glass for the window of the entry foyer. APPROVED @

201008.4 Finance Committee Report. Dick Crepeau presented the Finance Committee report.

A. The Finance Committee addressed the question of how to pay bills for the Meetinghouse renovation that are due before all the pledges are received. They determined that offers of short-term loans at low interest rates from members or attenders will be sufficient to cover our needs.

B. The committee met with the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support to discuss the creation of a new fund, the Refugee Assistance Fund, which would receive contributions that are not deductible from the donors' income taxes. Contributions to this new fund will be used to assist the immigrant families with whom our Meeting works directly. Money in the existing fund, the Refugee Fund, and any future tax-deductible contributions to that fund will be passed on to Catholic Charities for assisting a much broader group of immigrants and refugees. Friends received the report. @

201008.5 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin presented the Treasurer's report. A question was raised about the specifics of accounting for the interest payable on any loans we receive. This concern was referred to the Finance Committee. A request was expressed for information about expenses paid for renovations to the new Meetinghouse to be included in the financial statement each month. Friends received the report. @

201008.6 Clerk's Business and Future Meetings. Clerk is planning to schedule an Informational Meeting to discuss the builder's up-to-date estimate for the renovations at 7PM on August 31st at the Burt House: date and time to be confirmed. The intent of this meeting is to prepare to make a decision at Monthly Meeting on September 12, 2010. Clerk also proposed scheduling a Called Meeting or Business in late September. APPROVED @

201008.7 Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM). CALM requested that Meeting consider creating a soft spot for children and others on the floor of the Hector Meetinghouse near the wood stove for a temporary trial. This idea had been tested by both the Ministry and Worship Committee and CALM. Clerk invited us to look for the spiritual opportunities this offer presents/ APPROVED @

201008.8 Other Concerns.

A concern was raised about the need for the various committees concerned with IMM's properties to meet together to share common concerns, issues and knowledge.

A concern was voiced regarding the diminishing number of Friends attending Monthly Meeting. @

Eleven Friends settled into worship at 2:10 PM before adjourning.

Next Meetings: An informational/discussion meeting on the estimate of project costs and income for the renovations will be held possibly on August 31, 2010 at 7PM at the Burt House: date and time to be confirmed.

Our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on September 12, 2010 at the Hector Meetinghouse after the rise of Meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk*

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 6. Parents and older Friends are advised to be sensitive to the insights of younger people and to keep a close and sympathetic contact with them. Children are urged to love and respect their parents that all may be led together to the Light Within.

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?

Meeting Friends

- Melissa Mueller and Ernest Blake were married on August 21st, with little baby Benjamin in attendance. Congratulations to the Blake family!
- Steve Gaarder and Suzanne Kates are off to Europe in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. They will spend two weeks in Belgium, Germany and Netherlands. They plan to visit friends, another ecovillage and do some exploring.

August 2010 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Please also see the online calendar at <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

Social Justice Committee Sunday, September 5, Rise of Meeting

Social Justice Committee will convene at the Hector Meetinghouse.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 12, Rise of Meeting

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

Porchfest Sunday, September 12, 1-5:30

Please see page 4 for details.

Women's Fellowship Friday, September 17, 7p

Please join us at 7pm at the Ithaca Bakery, 400 N. Meadow Street. All are welcome. Have dinner or tea or baked goods... or not.

Rise Up Singing Benefit Concert Saturday, September 18, 7p

Please see page 4 for details.

Dish-to-Pass to thank Annie & Peter Blood Sunday, September 19, Rise of Meeting

Please bring a simple dish to share to honor Annie & Peter for their kindness in singing a benefit concert to raise funds for our new Meetinghouse

Floating Meeting... with Treasure Hunt Friday, September 24, 6p

Come gather with Frank and Barbara Barry at 219 East Lansing Road in Groton. There will be a treasure hunt and, hopefully if no rain, a bonfire with some story telling!

Annual Quaker Picnic Sunday, September 26, Rise of Meeting

Rain or shine, the Program Committee will be at the Hector Meetinghouse grilling up veggie burgers, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

What can you bring? How about chairs or blankets to sit on if you like, tablesettings (silverware, plates, and cups) and outdoor entertainment. Let Toni Murdough know if you can help with setup or cleanup: tmurdough@juno.com or 273-9037.

Return to Anabel Taylor Hall Sunday, October 3rd, 11a

Meeting for Worship moves back to Cornell in October. Note the later start time.

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a Children are invited to enjoy the outdoors behind the Hector Meetinghouse. Adult supervision provided.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts