

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2011

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street
607-229-9500



Call to confirm
move-in dates!

Clerk:

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

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, 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:

Gina Varrichio • 607-272-2512

Burt House:

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

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

Scheduling:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting and/or to reserve a room at the meetinghouse, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

We're moving! Friends to gather at 120 Third Street

Although we have not yet secured the official "Certificate of Occupancy" required for moving in as of press time, we are on track to move into the very first Quaker meetinghouse in Ithaca on the weekend of April 9th and 10th.

Clean up: March 31 and April 1

The contractor will leave the new meetinghouse "broom clean" before March 31st but we will need to dust, damp mop, clean windows, clear the parking lot and courtyard, and so forth. Come any time between 9am and 9pm on this Thursday and Friday. Bring your non-toxic cleaning supplies, buckets, rags, and a joyful spirit.

Moving Furniture: April 2

While the contractors have been working, tables, chairs, and other furnishings have been waiting for us in the Barrys' barn and the Jolles' barn. On April 2nd beginning at 9:00 am, we will bring our things downtown and arrange them in our new space.

Please consider spending all or parts of these days rolling up your sleeves and helping Friends take the first steps toward getting our new home ready.

10:30a Meeting for Worship

Beginning on Sunday, April 10th, Meeting for Worship each first day will begin at 10:30am.

24-hour Meeting for Worship

Plans are proceeding for a 24-hour Meeting for Worship to begin Saturday, April 9th at 11:30am.

Friends are invited to participate in any part of the 24-hour Meeting for Worship, worshipping in the meeting room for a few minutes or for several hours. In the spirit of silent retreats, Friends will be asked to observe silence on the entire first floor of the meetinghouse during the 24-hour Meeting for Worship. The second floor of our meetinghouse can be a place for quiet fellowship. Some Friends, including children, may want to bring sleeping bags so that they may camp out overnight on the second floor.

Ministry and Worship will provide vegetable soup and bread on the evening

"24 Hours" continued on page 2

Quaker Meeting



ITHACA MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

This image will be a part of the new banner to appear on our building soon.

"24 Hours" continued from page 1

of Saturday, April 9th. Some First Day Schoolers will prepare a breakfast Sunday morning. Friends are invited to bring sustenance as so led. We will have tables for eating downstairs and upstairs to accommodate those who prefer to eat in silence and fellowship, respectively.

The 24-hours will close at the rise of our Sunday Meeting for Worship at 11:30.

We especially encourage night owls and early risers to join this worship for a spell in the wee hours! It is sure to be a memorable experience.

Remembering Jean Parker

Jean Parker and her son, Will, worshiped with us at the Hector Meetinghouse. Jean died on March 13, 2011. Plans are in progress for a memorial meeting for worship to be held on Sunday, May 1, most likely at our new meetinghouse. Details will be announced at meeting for worship announcements in April, and also via our Meeting listserv. For more information, please contact Tonia Saxon, 387-5244 / tonia@iecc.com In lieu of flowers, donations in Jean's memory may be directed to the American Friends Service Committee (afsc.org), 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Spring

by Drew Varrichio (7) and
Elijah deCastro (9)

Some buds look like onions.

Some buds looks like garlic.

It is the season of melting snow,

which looks like a pile

of ice cream that fell off the cone.

Some buds look like candles.

Some buds look like cabbages.

Daffodils pop up like green

popsicle sticks.

It is the season of white water

on the run.

Some buds look like the mouths

of hungry birds.

March 20, 2011

Young Friends In Residence

The Young Friends in Residence (or YFIR) program is a local treasure brought to us through a collaboration between New York Yearly Meeting, Perry City Monthly Meeting and Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

Through YFIR, young adult Friends host weekend retreats for tweens and/or teens at the Perry City Meetinghouse. These are very special events, closer and on a more intimate scale than what is available at Powell House.

These are the upcoming conferences for spring:

Thank You for Being a Friend

April 15-17, ages 11-14

What makes a good friend? Why is friendship important? How do friendships change as you transition from childhood to adolescence? How do you deepen the friendships you have, and how do you form new ones? How do you say "no" to a friend and how do you know when to let go. We will tackle these questions and more this weekend, as we examine the complicated world of friendship.

He, She, Ze... Me?

May 13-15, ages 14-18

Society is constantly telling us what it means to be a man or a woman, and what forms of sexuality are healthy or unacceptable. This pressure is often felt most keenly at adolescence, when we are going through the physical transformation from child to adult, and are beginning to explore our sexuality. This weekend we'll examine some of the assumptions and stereotypes about gender and sexuality and discuss some of the safe and healthy ways we can explore our identities.

Parking at 120 Third Street

At least until we have a better understanding of the demand for parking in our small lot off of Madison Street, Friends who feel comfortable walking a short distance are invited to find street parking so that the lot spaces can be made available to those who need to be close in.

Creating Your Way

June 10-12, ages 11-14

This weekend, we'll explore as many ways to express our creativity as we can. We hope that you'll come prepared to share your favorite ways, but also to try new ones. So bring your instruments, your journals, your scrapbooks, your dancing shoes, and anything else you might need, because we are going to have some fun!

To Register email us (at yfirinterns@gmail.com) and we'll send you a printable registration form to mail to: The Beloved Community House, 599 Trumbulls Corners Rd, Newfield, NY, 14867.

Library Update

This is the time of year when we turn our attention to the matter of taxes.

The Library will be featuring on the shelf in the Edwards Room (and then at the Third Street Meetinghouse) some of the materials on war tax resistance for Friends who may be considering this option. Also look for more materials on the topic in the Meditation Room at the Burt House – on the shelf labeled PEACE.

War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military.

Ed Hedemann. 144 pp. Comprehensive source book with detailed chapters on the hows, why's, and consequences of war tax resistance. Includes a thorough history of this resistance in U.S. from 1673 to the present along with inspiring individual stories.

Some of these materials are available for borrowing. Please use the sign-out cards and return materials in a timely manner so that others can use them, too. The brochures are free.

— Wilma Brown

Please join us for the 39th

Spring Gathering

of the Farmington-Scipio Region, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, **May 20-22, 2011**, at the Salvation Army Long Point Conference Center on Seneca Lake, Penn Yan, NY 14527

Inspiration and fun for all: worship, Bible study, workshops, nature walks, games, crafts, singing, contra dance and more!

Presenting: David Zarembka, Coordinator, African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams: "Listening as Peacemaking"

- Worship-sharing
- Peacemaking after deadly conflict: Healing and Reconciliation in Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya
- Listening to the "other"
- Practice at difficult conversations
- Networking time for clerks, peace & justice work, religious education, outreach and more.

Families welcome! Child-care, youth and teen programs. Registration materials coming soon to your meeting and regional website: <www.quakerwny.com>

Contacting Tom Rodman

Tom Rodman is currently living in Oxford, NY. Friends who would like to drop him a note or visit him may contact him here:

New York State Veterans' Home
4207 State Highway 220
Oxford, NY 13830

Ithaca Farmers Market opens Saturday, April 2

Ginny Gartlein has Farmers' Markets wallet-sized calendars available and will make them available to Friends. Please come see Ginny at the Market!

Hospice Foundation of America's 18th Annual Living with Grief Program: Spirituality and End-of-Life Care

Spirituality and End-of-Life Care is the Hospice Foundation of America's annual teleconference which is geared toward anyone with an interest in helping others deal with life-limiting illness, dying, death, grief or bereavement. It will be held Thursday, April 28, from 1 to 4:30p in the Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room.

The program begins with participants watching a national teleconference which features a panel of clergy and medical professionals discussing the relationship and differences between spirituality and religion, as well as spirituality during illness, death and grief, spiritual assessment and empowerment, and life review. Hospicare is hosting the program and will facilitate a local panel discussion with Jeff Collins, Social Worker at Hospicare, Reverend Meredith Ellis, Chaplain at Cayuga Medical Center, and Rabbi Scott Glass, Rabbi at Temple Beth-El. It is co-sponsored by Cayuga Medical Center Spiritual Care Department and Area Congregations Together (ACT).

There is no fee to attend this program unless participants wish to receive continuing education (CE) credits and/or to purchase the companion book. Participants must register by April 15, 2011 by calling 272-0212 or emailing mdunham@hospicare.org. When you register, please indicate whether you will be registering for CE credits. To request accommodation of a disability, please let Melissa know what you need when you register.

Kitchen Cupboard part of Fundraising Challenge

In March and April, your donations towards Kitchen Cupboard will go further thanks to a fundraising challenge called The Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge.

The Feinstein Foundation will divide its own \$1 million proportionately between all non-profit anti-hunger groups that report the funds that they raise during the Challenge between March 1st and April 30th, 2010. The greater the donations received by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier during this timeframe as a result of the challenge, the more funds from the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge the Food Bank will receive

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 5. Remembering the tenderness of Jesus for children, we recommend that parents and those who have the important charge of educating youth exercise a loving and watchful care over them. Meetings are urged to help parents and children share religious experiences at home and in the meeting for worship and to give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends.

Query 14. Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

Query 15. Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily lives so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?

Conversations in the Spirit: Workshops on Spiritual Nurture of the Monthly Meeting

I have been happy to see so many Ithaca Friends at these workshops. As always all Friends are welcome.

— Anna Obermayer

Held at Perry City Meetinghouse, 6324 Route 227 in Perry City, Sunday morning from 9:15 am-10:30 am, downstairs in the Firstday-school room, these workshops are designed to be a conversation about Quakerism by Quakers. This is about how we make plans for changing ourselves and then do it. Contact Anna Obermayer (anna.e.obermayer@gmail.com) with your questions.

All of the readings for these workshops are part of a conversation. These readings are not answers, or how-to guides; in some cases they aren't even polished works. Instead they are snapshots of conversations Friends are having all over the world. They are other voices adding to the conversations we will be having in the Firstday-school room at Perry City Meeting House.

Upcoming workshops include:

What is the Spiritual Aspect of Money? : Finances, Tithing, and Covenant, April 10th and 17th

How do we talk about our relationship with money as a Meeting in a loving way? How do we discern out financial responsibility towards our Meeting? Where is God in our money? Is there such a thing as financial hospitality?

Some Quakers Have Pastors: Understanding and Nurturing Community Between Monthly Meetings and the Wider Quaker Community, April 24th and May 1st

How can we nurture fellowship with the other Meetings around us? How can we nurture fellowship with our Yearly Meeting? How can we nurture fellowship with other branches of Quakerism?

That Still Quiet Voice: Nurturing Vocal and Other Ministries, May 8th and 15th

How do we remove blocks to vocal ministry in our Meeting? How do we teach Friends about how to discern an appropriate message? How do we nurture those with gifts of vocal ministry?

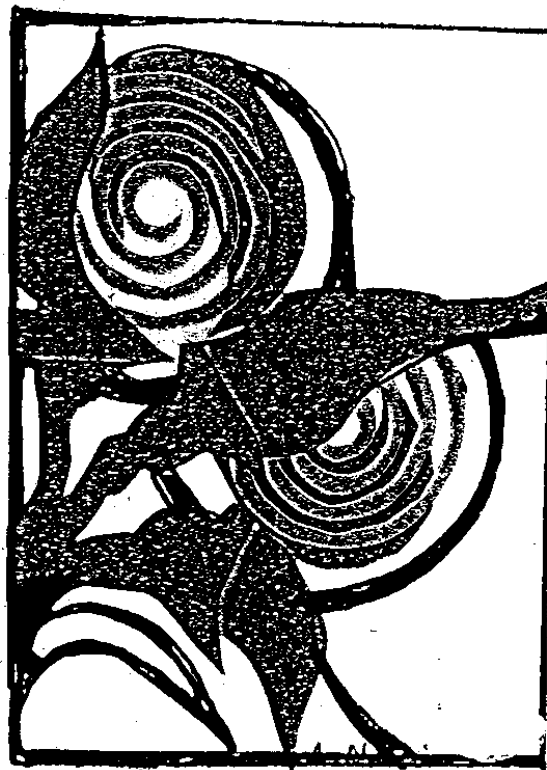
"Servas" program for youth travel abroad

For years I have been a host with Servas, an organization affiliated with the UN and dedicated to promoting peace by hosting visitors from all over the world and traveling to stay with hosts in other countries. I just learned that Servas offers a program for youth to travel abroad and learn a language (see below). If you have questions about SERVAS, please contact Susan Wolf, QuakerWolf@gmail.com or 272-1618.

— Susan Wolf

From Servas

Are you between 18 and 30-something? Would you like to improve your foreign language skills outside of a classroom? Would you like to have a meaningful cultural exchange? Do you have a month or more to commit to the unique learning experience that can only be found in travel?



The SYLE program is free with Servas membership and is seeking participants. SYLE (Servas Youth Language Experience) is a program designed for young Servas members to learn a language through a Servas cultural exchange during one month in a foreign country. Through SYLE we also hope to strengthen the integration of national local groups, as well as to promote the participation of young people in Servas. The US Servas website features presentations by a participant from last year who visited the US and one who went abroad. You can see them at www.servasyouth.org.

US Servas is proud to present the Dennis Mogergerman Youth Scholarship fund! Dennis Mogergerman, long time Servas member and traveler, is now generously offering for Servas Youth the financial assistance you may need to make your dreams a travel a reality. Two \$500 scholarships are currently available for individuals who wish to participate in a SYLE. They will be awarded based on demonstrated financial need and a commitment to the promotion of Servas among youth.

**Minutes of the March 13, 2011 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

201102.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall on March 13, 2011. At 12:55 PM, 23 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and extended our appreciation to Elspeth Rhodin and Ellie Rosenberg for holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read two Queries from NYYM: Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for conversation with God and the opening of our hearts to the Christ within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God? A period of open worship followed this reading.

201103.2 Ministry and Worship (M&W)

Tonia Saxon, Assistant Clerk, brought several committee matters.

- A. Tonia read a report on the 24-hour Meeting for Worship which is planned for the day before, overnight, and into the morning of our first Meeting at the new meetinghouse. We anticipate and hope that the dates will be April 9-10, 2011, provided we have received the Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Ithaca. Friends received the report.
- B. Tonia reported on two Committees for Clearness for Membership. The recommendation for membership for Sandra Steingraber was APPROVED. The recommendation for membership for Jeff de Castro was APPROVED.
- C. Marin Clarkberg gave us details on the outcome of the survey that M&W conducted within IMM about preferred times for Meeting for Worship on First Days. The committee is not yet prepared to make a recommendation about summer worship at Hector MH, but does feel ready to propose that, starting with our move into the new meetinghouse, Meeting for Worship will begin at 10:30 AM all year round. Clerk and the committee invited comment. Concerns were expressed that there be ample time for discussion and religious education, and that worship time be considered within the flow of the whole First Day. With the understanding that the decision can be revisited if we are so led, Friends APPROVED the change to starting Meeting for Worship at 10:30 AM in the new meetinghouse.
- D. Tonia Saxon read a statement from M&W regarding the range of opinions and feelings they have heard about options for summer worship at Hector MH. The committee welcomes input as Friends continue to consider the questions, and there will be an opportunity in the near future to meet together to talk about the matter. Friends accepted the report.
- E. Tonia read the proposed State of the Meeting report, which includes a review of events in the Meeting during 2010 and a summary of our discussion of the Queries sent by NYYM. Friends present suggested some substantive changes, and entrusted to Tonia and M&W the final wording of the changes. With this, the State of the Meeting report was APPROVED to be sent on to our Regional and Yearly Meetings. @

201103.3 Project Management Committee

Lynn Truame read the report updating us on progress made and decisions to come in the renovation. Friends received the report. @

201103.4 Trustees

Marilyn Ray reported that IMM's application for full tax-exempt status for the new Meetinghouse has been approved. Friends received the report. @

201103.5 Clerk's Business

Steve Mohlke reported that the question of the name(s) used for the new meetinghouse, discussed briefly last month, has not been addressed. There are other new and already-mentioned issues for which it seems advisable that the Meeting hold some focused discussion meetings. Dates were proposed and discussed, and final dates for these meetings will be published very soon. @

201103.6 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, gave the monthly report, highlighting some details about cash flow during the final stages of renovation which is going about as had been anticipated. Both pledges received and contributions to the general fund are ahead of the schedule we had expected. Friends accepted the report. @

201103.7 Other Concerns

- A. Pat Sewell suggested that IMM submit an application to participate in the Ithaca Festival Parade. The suggestion was referred to the Publicity Committee, with the understanding that any proposal made will be brought to the Monthly Meeting.
- B. Susan Wolf expressed the concern that cleaning products for the new meetinghouse will be scent-free and eco-friendly. Referred to Third Street Meetinghouse Committee.
- C. Marin Clarkberg noted that this may be the last Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business held in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall.

At 2:45 PM, 20 Friends settled into worship before adjourning the Meeting. We will gather again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 10, 2011.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk*

April 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, April 2, 10:45a

All are welcome to gather at the Burt House for Peace Witness.

Fahima Vorgetts of Aghan Women's Fund Wednesday, April 6, 5p

The Social Justice Committee announces a presentation by Fahima Vorgetts, a nationally acclaimed speaker and activist, to be sponsored by Cornell University. Fahima is on the board of Women for Afghan Women, and director of the Afghan Women's Fund. She is an honorary member of the Afghanistan Organization for Human Rights and Environmental Protection. The event will be held on at 5 pm in Biotech G10 on Cornell's campus.

24-Hour Meeting for Worship Saturday, April 9, 11:30a - Sunday, 11:30a

Friends are invited to worship for any length of time in this window at our new meetinghouse, 120 Third Street. See page 1 for more information, or contact Marin Clarkberg, mec30@cornell.edu, 279-4722.

Meeting for Worship moves to Third Street Sunday, April 10, 10:30a

With the change in location, we will also change our time of Sunday Meeting for Worship to 10:30-11:30a.

Fellowship! Sunday, April 10, Rise of Meeting

Let's try out our new kitchen with a brief "social hour" or light brunch.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, April 10, noon

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

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages (*starting April 10*)
- 10:45a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather upstairs. Please, no shoes upstairs!

Women's Fellowship Friday, April 15, 6:30p

Friends want to stay at the Ithaca Bakery. Until the bakery shifts to their "summer hours," we'll gather there at 6:30 and try to leave respectfully at their 8p closing time.

Afternoon Tea at Chris & Melissa's Saturday, April 16, 3-6p

Chris Dunham and Melissa Travis Dunham invite F/friends to their annual afternoon tea. Stop by 105 Dunmore Place for a snack, cup of tea, or just conversation. Please don't bring anything; we'll be happy just to see you! Call 277-9599 with questions or for directions.

Easter Sunrise Meeting for Worship Sunday, April 24, 6a

This is a special meeting for worship at the Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road. Please join us as we wait for the Light.

Easter Brunch at Marion & Nancy's Sunday, April 24, 7:30-10a

After Meeting for Worship at Hector (and/or before 10:30 Meeting for Worship at the Meetinghouse), join Marion DaGrossa and Nancy Gabriel at 109 Sears Street in downtown Ithaca for fellowship and a dish-to-pass brunch.

Meetinghouse Discussions Tuesday, April 26, 7:15p

Part of a series of additional meetings during the next few months to discuss issues that arise as we transition to the new Meetinghouse. As with our decision-making a year ago we know that having more time together really helps talk through and resolve issues before they become problems. Please join us at the Meetinghouse for this evening discussion.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, April 28, 5p

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

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