



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

March 2011

IMM CONTACTS

Clerk:

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Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
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607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

Ministry & Worship:

Carolyn Kenyon
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Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
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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 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 March 24th

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

Plans for Moving in to the New Meetinghouse on Third Street

The first Meeting for Worship ever to be held in a Quaker meetinghouse in Ithaca is coming soon. It's impossible to guarantee a move-in date right now, but we are currently planning to convene for our first First Day in our own building on April 10th.

24-hour Meeting for Worship

If we are in fact able to move in that weekend, Ministry and Worship is planning for a 24-hour Meeting for Worship to begin Saturday, April 9th at 11am. This would be an opportunity to commemorate this historic event and to establish our presence in our new home.

Should we be able to move forward with this date, 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.

To help sustain the worshippers, Ministry and Worship will provide vegetable soup and bread on the evening of Saturday, April 9th. Others who are able and willing to bring refreshments at any time during this event are encouraged to do so. We will have tables for eating downstairs and upstairs to accommodate those who prefer to eat in silence and fellowship, respectively.

Watch this space

The April newsletter, the listserv, and our website (see URL in the footer below) will have additional information regarding when we can attain the Certificate of Occupancy and other move-in information.

It has long been the case that Friends are advised to arrive for Meeting for Worship before the stated start time to help settle the space. A 24-hour presence in the meetinghouse is not only an opportunity to observe our meetinghouse—and the neighborhood—through all the phases of a single day; it also represents 23 hours of preparing the room for our first First Day Meeting for Worship at Third Street.

Contingency Plans

If we can't occupy the building on that date, our move-in date should be soon thereafter. Because April 17th and 24th correspond to spring break for the Ithaca city schools and many families may be out of town, our move in may not include a big event like the 24-hour Meeting for Worship.

An Open House... Later

Ministry and Worship expects that Meeting will host—and widely publicize—a true "open house" for the broader community later in the year.

Young Friends In Residence Job Openings

Young Friends in Residence is a collaborative program between New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and Perry City Monthly Meeting with significant support from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

Located in Newfield, NY at the Beloved Community House ten miles outside of Ithaca, NY the YFIR program is looking for interns. Interns will live in intentional community. Work includes developing youth and adult programs focused on creating a space for friends of all ages to experience, live in and respond to Spirit. Interns are encouraged to immerse themselves in the local community and participate in the life of Perry City Monthly Meeting and the wider Quaker Community. An openness to grow and deepen spiritually is required as is experience in Quaker practices. Small monthly stipend (\$200) plus room, board and travel expenses. Start dates are March 1 and September 1, 2011.

For more information, including a job description and application, please contact Chris DeRoller at 518-794-8811 or email us at YFIRwg@gmail.com.

Nightingales at the Mohawk Valley Meetinghouse

Come Sing with the Nightingales (East) at the Mohawk Valley Meetinghouse, April 15-17. This is a raucous gathering of Friends who love to sing so much we roost for a whole weekend to do so. We gather Friday evening, and spend the weekend sharing song, our stories, good food and fellowship. There are beds for those who can't camp out or sleep on the floor, and great places to pitch a tent! Come for all or part of the weekend.

This has always been a joyous time of sharing and caring, as well as wonderful singing. In the past the cost for the weekend has been \$10 for food supplies.

Melody Johnson will be going and would like to carpool. For more information, contact Melody at 272-8755 or rcrepea1@twcny.rr.com.

Peace Vigil Recognized in Community Read Guide

Check out the afterword in the *Companion Guide for the MLK Talking Circles* on Martin Luther King's book: "Where Do we Go From Here, Chaos or Community."

The afterword is written by Barry Derfel, an Instructional Specialist for Educational Equity for the Ithaca City School District. On page 15 of the Guide, paragraph 2, lines 9, 10 and 11, we find:

And we are not the least bit surprised to see groups of people standing on the Commons every Thursday, week in and week out, carrying signs calling for a peaceful resolution to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has the location a block off, but our Quaker vigil is the only one on Thursday, "week in and week out."

Hospicare's 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 anyone working with people dealing with life-limiting illness, dying, death, grief or bereavement.

It will take place Thursday, April 28th from 1 to 4:30pm in the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library.

The program begins with participants watching a national teleconference. Following the teleconference a local panel of clergy and medical professionals will discuss the relationship and differences between spirituality and religion, as well as spirituality during illness, death and grief, spiritual assessment and empowerment, and life review.

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.

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.

Friendly Adult Presence for Teens Requested for March 20th

The Power Quakers need a substitute adult presence for their regular meeting on Sunday, March 20th. Susan Wolf will be assisting with AVP at Green Haven Correctional Facility that weekend. If you can stand in for her, contact her at QuakerWolf@gmail.com or 272-1618.

Cello and Piano Recital

Friend Elizabeth Simkin, cellist, invites all to her recital with pianist Miri Yampolsky in Barnes Hall at Cornell on March 16th at 8 pm.

Simkin and Yampolsky will play music of Brahms, Piazzola (a very fun tango), Arvo Part (a meditation featured on my recent CD for Hospicare; Beauty Crowds Me), and Prokofiev.

The concert will be free.

New Beginnings



Welcome Baby Eleanor!

Eleanor Laurel Yesukevich was born February 16, at 11:43 pm. In a word: she is gorgeous. She weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces, measured 20 ¼" long, and has a full head of brown hair.

Eleanor, Emily, and Alexa are all home now and doing well. Eleanor is already gaining weight.

Kathy Beissner, beissner@ithaca.edu, from the Pastoral Care Committee has been coordinating food and care for the new family.

Progress at Third Street



Left: The wood floor in the meeting room is sanded in preparation for finishing. We were able to re-use the wood flooring that was in place and supplemented this material with locally produced hardwood. Radiators have been replaced, and are now keeping the meetinghouse warm.

Above: A joint meeting of the Project Management Committee and the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee gathers upstairs in a future First Day School classroom. This was the first of what we hope will be many meetings to occur in this space.

Managing Giving to IMM through Electronic Transfers

Meeting Treasurer has set up a way for f/Friends to make donations to Meeting easy and regular using electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Meeting's. If you have any question feel free to e-mail or call the treasure; Mike Simkin, mes13@cornell.edu, 607-387-5174.



A convenient, consistent way to help our Meeting grow

Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving

Our Meeting offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are currently writing checks, you may especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our Meeting.

How to get started

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form below and return it to the Treasurer: Mike Simkin, 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

Join the 40-hour Fast: March 23rd through March 25th

The newly-formed Fingerlakes Labor-Religion Coalition invites participation in their 16th Annual 40-hour Fast.

The Labor-Religion Fast asks you to not eat solid food for as much of the 40 hours between midnight on the night of March 23rd and 4pm on March 25th. Or: fast from solid food from sunrise to sunset on March 24th.

Why fast?

The Fast is both individual and communal, private and public. While participants experience the hunger pains brought on by going without solid food for one or more meals, they are asked to consider the sacrifice of low-wage workers. Fasters hunger for an America that promotes opportunity for all.

Why 40-hours?

The number 40 has special significance in both religious and labor traditions. Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai; the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years; the great flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights; and the 40 days of Lent are rooted in Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. The US labor movement, after many years of sacrifice and struggle, gained a 40-hour work-week for most workers.

This year's fast

This year the fast commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in N.Y. C. in which 146 young women died, some leaping to their deaths. The following public outcry led to new workplace safety rules and encouraged the growing grassroots labor movement.

The struggle of workers vs. profits continues today here and globally. As recently as December in Bangladesh, a fire in a factory making garments for Gap and JC Penney killed 23 workers and injured 100 more. As in the Shirtwaist fire, some exits were blocked.

Brochures on the fast will be available at Meeting for Worship, or call Majorie Baines, 269-0145 and leave a message.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc.	
Your name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email address:	
I would like to make the following contribution(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
Total	
Date of first contribution: ___/___/___	
Frequency of contribution (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1 st and 15 th	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	

CHECKING / SAVINGS	<i>Complete this section if using your checking or savings account</i>
Please debit my (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip	
Routing #:	Account #:
<i>Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3</i>	
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized signature: _____	Date: / /

**Minutes of the February 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 February 13, 2011. At 12:40 PM, 21 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and extended our appreciation to Nancy Gabriel and Erica Weiss for holding the Meeting in the Light. To celebrate the progress we made toward a meetinghouse in the last year, Clerk read the Minute of February 14, 2010 regarding the query asking "Are we a Meeting on the Rt. 79 property or a downtown Meeting: What is our mission?" Following a discussion of this query one year ago, Friends approved a Minute for Clerk to gather information about and arrange for Friends to visit the former Pangea restaurant in downtown Ithaca. A period of open worship followed this reading.

201102.2 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. Reporting for the Committee, Larry Clarkberg introduced the Committee members: Marion DaGrossa, Clerk, Larry Clarkberg, Recording Clerk, Gary Thomas, and Tony Serviente, who also serves as liaison to the Project Management Committee.

A. The Committee presented three options for a temporary sign for the New Meetinghouse. Suggestions were made for adding the following to the sign: the time of services; a dove; and the words "Religious Society of Friends." These suggestions will be taken into consideration for the permanent sign to be decided by Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at a future date.

Friends were comfortable with using "Ithaca Friends Meeting (Quakers). The following minute was APPROVED: The Committee, having heard the discussion is entrusted with the wording on the temporary sign for the new Meetinghouse. @

B. The Committee proposed that we refer to the new Meetinghouse internally as the "Third Street Meetinghouse." Friends were not clear as to whether to call the new Meetinghouse the "Third Street Meetinghouse" or the "Ithaca Meetinghouse." Friends laid this decision over. @

201102.3 Ministry and Worship

A. Tonia Saxon reported that 18 Friends have signed up for the GRIST (GRowing In the Spirit Together) groups; and Ministry and Worship is considering the time for Meeting for Worship and a survey about possible Meeting times will be circulated to Friends by email and during announcements after Meeting for Worship. A suggestion was made to circulate surveys also by postal mail. Friends received the report. @

B. Ministry and Worship proposed and Friends APPROVED moving Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business from May 8th, Mother's Day, to May 15th. @

C. The following Committee for Clearness for Membership for Sandra Steingraber was APPROVED: Chuck Mohler, Wendy Wolf, and Barbara Ganzel. @

D. Ministry and Worship requested Friends take a first look at how we will use the Hector Meetinghouse this summer. No decisions were to be made. To frame the discussion,

Ministry and Worship reported the following issues they had considered:

- Affirming our attachment to Hector—we don't want to abandon a space that is so well-loved, and also has the graveyard.
- Allowing the Meeting to worship together—recognizing that some people never go to Hector, and some people never go to Anabel Taylor, but that offering both options simultaneously could split the meeting.
- Being consistent about where we meet and the time for Meeting so that is easy to communicate this to others.
- Keeping all materials are in one place—especially child-care related materials, which can be bulky and hard to transport.
- Ensuring responsibilities for childcare are manageable.
- Allowing Friends to choose a meeting time and/or place that suits their own personal needs.

Ministry and Worship named the following possible alternatives that had been considered thus far:

- Meet at Third St. all the time
- Meet at Hector from Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Meet at Hector for all of July/all of August/all of July and August
- Meet at Hector and Third St. alternating First Days
- Meet at Hector once a month
- Two meetings every First Day: first at one location, then at the other
- Or first at Third St., then at Hector

Friends settled into Worship Sharing (summary of issues and suggestions are reported in a separate document, attached). @

201102.4 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin, Treasurer, reported that Meeting has commitments for loans totaling \$120,000 to cover the time between the need to pay invoices for the renovation of the Meetinghouse and the receipt of pledges. Friends received the report. @

201102.5 Other Concerns

- A Friend raised a question about the possibility of Meeting needing some additional meetings to consider issues related to the New Meetinghouse.
- A Friend requested that we be mindful that April 17 and April 24 are First Days during the public school's spring break when Friends may be traveling and unavailable to share in the experience of moving into the new Meetinghouse. @

At 2:55 PM, 18 Friends settled into worship before adjourning the Meeting. Friends will gather for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business again on March 13, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn L. Ray, Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.

Query 1. Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?

Query 2. Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

March 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

Social Justice Committee Sunday, March 6, 10:15am

The Social Justice Committee welcomes all in the cafe before meeting for worship. If you have a concern or issue you would like Social Justice to consider, feel free to attend or contact Susan Ruff or Barbara Barry.

Indian Affairs Discussion Thursday, March 10, 7p

There will be a discussion of the New York Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee minute on the Doctrine of Discovery and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the Burt House. New developments and information call for action from the Senate, which means our Senators must hear from us. Contact Susan Wolf for more information: QuakerWolf@gmail.com, 272-1618.

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, March 12, 10:30a

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

Time Change Sunday, March 13, 2am

Set your clocks forward one hour.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, March 13, Rise of Meeting

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

Every Sunday

- 11:00a Meeting for Worship for all ages
- 11:15a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather outside the Edwards Room.

Women's Fellowship Friday, March 17, 6:30p

The Ithaca Bakery is *not closing* permanently, but it is *closing too early* in the winter time. For our March gathering, we will move the start-time 30-minutes earlier. Beginning in April, shall we move this event to our own building so we stop getting bumped? Feedback to Marin Clarkberg, mec30@cornell.edu.

Getting Your Documents in Order Saturday, March 26, 1pm

You are welcome to come to a discussion of end of life issues to be held at the Burt House from 1:00 to 4:30. Marcie Finlay will talk about documents that are helpful to have in order before medical emergencies arise, such as Healthcare Proxy and Power of Attorney. This event is hosted by the Pastoral Care Committee. For more information, please get in touch with Bronwyn Mohlke, 277-4183 or bjm9@cornell.edu.

Brunch to Welcome New Members is also the Last Brunch at Anabel Taylor Hall Sunday, March 27, Rise of Meeting

Our fourth Sunday brunch this month will be in honor of our new members:

Lynn, Annelise & Kai Truame
Melissa Blake (previously Mueller)

Please bring a dish to share (and a dish to eat on). If any new members are ready to be approved at the March business meeting those will be added to the above new members being recognized.

We expect this will be our last brunch at *Anabel Taylor* so come & join the welcoming party & say farewell to the cafe.

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