

Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2011

## IMM CONTACTS

### Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850  
607-229-9500

### Clerk:

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

### Treasurer:

Mike Simkin  
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### Ministry & Worship:

Carolyn Kenyon  
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### 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 meeting-house, please see the instructions on the website.

**Website:** [ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

## The Significance of Membership: A Process Minute

— *Ministry and Worship*

Several inquiries from members and attenders about membership in the Religious Society of Friends found their way to Ministry and Worship last spring. Since then, Ministry and Worship has been laboring to understand the role membership plays in our Meeting. The Friend/friend or member/attender distinction lies heavily on our Meeting. To some, it seems in conflict with the central understandings of Friends' teaching, which so strongly weighs against division.

New York Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice, however, emphasizes the difference. Only members may serve as Clerk, Trustees, Treasurer, or on the Finance, Ministry and Worship, or Nominating committees, and—according to Faith and Practice—only members are permitted to voice approval of minutes in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting observes the first practice—with one exception, no non-members have served in the offices or on the committees named above—but has

*"Membership" continued on page 2*

## Reflection on Our New Meetinghouse and Where We Go From Here

— *Karen Friedeborn*

Just a little over a year ago, on March 14th, 2010 the meeting affirmed the purchase of the new meetinghouse with these words:

*We find ourselves led by the Spirit to purchase the property at 120 3rd Street and 409 Madison Street for a Meetinghouse. We look forward to worshiping there, to a space that welcomes our children, and a space where we can share food and fellowship. We feel we are coming of age and becoming more visible to and active in the community and look forward to being knit into the neighborhood.*

*We are willing to accept the challenge of working within and expanding our capacities. Ithaca Monthly Meeting enthusiastically embraces the possibilities and challenges represented by the property at 120 3rd Street and 409 Madison Street and APPROVE its purchase and renovation for the Ithaca Monthly Meeting's new Meetinghouse.*

Now that we have moved into our new meetinghouse, the time has come to look again at what we hope will come with the move. It is easy to see how the new meetinghouse will allow our children to thrive and have a place to call their own. At our very first meeting today, it was a joy to see the children practically running toward their new space upstairs when they left meeting. It was a joy to see the teens sitting around outside enjoying the sun and each others' company during brunch.

It is easy to see how the new meetinghouse will afford us many more opportunities to share food and fellowship. We more than doubled in numbers from meetings of the recent past, with many Friends rejoining us today and sharing food together afterwards. There will be ample opportunities for communion and a deepening of our relationships with each other.

*"Where We Go" continued on page 2*

*"Membership" continued from page 1*

never observed the second. Attenders participate actively in Meeting for Business and voice approval of decisions and minutes.

"Membership implies commitment to the Meeting," one IMM member said. "If we don't uphold Faith and Practice and its directions about what attenders can and cannot do, then membership—and that commitment—mean nothing." Not long afterwards, Ministry and Worship received a letter from two other members that voiced similar concerns.

Some attenders, by contrast, expressed doubt about the significance of the membership process. "Why should I go through the clearness process when I already feel and act like a member now?" an attender asked. "And why do I have to be approved for membership?" added another. "It seems like allowing some people to pass judgment on others."

### A discussion about membership

Ministry and Worship held a special discussion after Meeting for Worship on January 31, 2011 to thresh the question. The discussion was based largely on Thomas Gates' Pendle Hill Pamphlet Members One of Another. Gates understands membership as one step in a lifelong process of spiritual growth within the Quaker community. Yet it is an essential step, and Gates does not contemplate a spiritual journey without it.

Gates' formulation did not address the concerns of attenders, who made observations like these:

"My actions, not my words, testify to my commitment to the Meeting. Joining the Meeting by saying the words 'I want to become a member' seems very much like swearing or oath-taking—which Quakers do not do."

"I have been part of this Meeting for thirty years. I feel like a member."

Members, for their part, shared their own experiences of the decision to join the Meeting. Several spoke of the importance of declaring publicly that they were Quakers.

"It's like getting married," several people said, "when you stand up in front of everybody and say, 'I commit myself to you and to our relationship.'"

"It's the difference between acting loving toward someone and saying 'I love you,'" said another.

"It was like a vow to myself," said another. "I was standing up and declaring, 'I am a Quaker' in a way that held me to my promise."

Another way of looking at membership: membership as a leading. The concept of testing a leading is central to the practice of Friends. It's the process by which an individual, having heard a call to follow a certain path, brings that call to the Meeting for consideration.

If the call to membership is understood as a leading, then the process of joining the Meeting may appear in a different light. If one is moved to join the Society of Friends, then he or she tests that conviction with the help of a clearness committee. When thought of this way, writing a letter to Ministry and Worship—whose role it is to choose clearness committees—might seem less like an application to a bureaucracy and more like a request for help with discernment: "Can you help me to choose Friends who will hear my leading to join the Meeting with love and support?"

In a related way, the possibility (remote, but not impossible) that the clearness committee might find the leading wanting would not be the same as judging the attender's spiritual qualifications as thin or deficient. Instead, the clearness committee would wait for a sense of the Truth of the leading and identify some stop or some obstacle to it. Ideally, that stop or obstacle would be clear both to the committee members and to the attender.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting is not now in unity on the question of what membership means to us. At this time, Ministry and Worship recommends no changes to our practice. We continue to observe the guidelines of New York Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice with regard to service on committees, while at the same time allowing attenders to voice approval of minutes in Business Meeting. And we continue to hold the concern for membership open for prayer and consideration.

*"Where We Go" continued from page 1*

It is less clear how our new home will help us become "more visible and active in the community." What opportunities are present now that were not there before? Unless we are called to rearrange our lives in very significant ways, we still have the same limits on our time and energy. Let us be honest about what we are willing to give of ourselves now.

One thing that has changed is that due to proximity, we have an opportunity to form new relationships. Surely our neighbors have noticed our arrival. I wonder what they think of us. Do they know who we are and what we value? Will our Quaker values be evident in our daily interactions? And what kind of relationship do we want with them? What do we mean by being "knit into the community"? What do we have to offer and how do we hope to grow as a result of our new relationships?

Another thing that has changed is that we have a place that lends legitimacy and permanence to Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Without

a lot of changes to our daily lives, we can share this space with others. If we offer the space to others who are doing the work that uphold our Quaker values, such as organizations working for peace and social justice, we are letting the community know what we value and also become more visible in the community.

I hope that we enter new relationships that present themselves with integrity and intention. Let us have a deep and honest discussion about what we really have to give and what we hope to gain from the opportunities afforded by our new meetinghouse.

### **See also, "Concern for our Community" on p. 3**

On May 31 during a Meetinghouse Discussion, we will discuss specific opportunities for putting Quaker values into action.

## Draft of Policies Guiding the Use of the Third Street Meetinghouse

The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC) has drafted some policies for new meetinghouse and hopes to bring these to monthly meeting for Meeting approval, perhaps as soon as May. Please consider these policies and provide your feedback to Larry Clarkberg or Marion DaGrossa.

### Meetinghouse Use Policy

We propose separate policies for meeting events (at which a significant portion of people attending are Friends) and public events.

Meeting events do not need advance notice or approval if they can be held in the kitchen, library, or on the second floor. Our assumption is that there are enough small rooms in the meetinghouse that there will rarely be a conflict. This policy may change as we discover how people use the building. The meeting does not charge for meeting events.

Large meeting events that need the meetingroom require at least a two-week advance reservation so that there is not a conflict with other events. These larger events should also be put on the calendar so that others know about them in order to avoid a conflict. The TSMC will mediate any conflicts. Instructions for scheduling large events are at:

<http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/schedule-a-meeting-event/>

Small events should also be put on the calendar if they are of interest to the entire meeting. They should also be publicized in other ways as described on the above web page.

All public events require approval of the TSMC, and if the TSMC decides it is necessary the TSMC will seek the approval of the meeting. IMM reserves the right to refuse events that it decides are not in keeping with Quaker principles. The TSMC will develop pricing for public events based on the going rate for similar buildings. For certain events (such as weddings and memorial services) the meeting may ask for a donation rather than charge a fixed price. Public events will have a lower priority than meeting events. All public events should be put on the meeting's online schedule by the TSMC, not only to avoid conflicts but also so that the meeting is aware of how the meetinghouse is being used.

A third kind of event is regular weekday use by specific organizations. Organizations may include clubs, service organizations, and religious organizations. The TSMC is developing a proposal to the meeting about how and who we want to offer use of the building to. The TSMC will develop pricing for this kind of tenant.

Everyone who uses the meetinghouse should clean up when they are done. Instructions will be posted.

### Alcohol and Smoking Policy

We ask that people do not drink alcohol in the meetinghouse. We anticipate that people may want to drink alcohol at wedding receptions and other similar occasions. On such occasions it is acceptable to drink in the courtyard. We ask that if people smoke that they do it at least 20 feet from the meetinghouse.

### Furnishing Donations Coordinator

The meetinghouse is getting enough furnishing donations that it is necessary for the TSMC to appoint a donations coordinator (currently Marion). The donations coordinator will maintain a list of donation requests. They will make sure there is a need for the donation and they will forward the request to the appropriate committee (CALM, Library or Hospitality).

### Decoration Policy

The exterior of the meetinghouse and the first floor are the "face" of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, and as such any decorations in these areas require TSMC approval. If the TSMC decides the changes are significant, it will seek meeting approval. Decorations on the second floor do not require approval.

### Flyer Policy

Flyers, brochures, handouts and other promotional material don't require approval. Flyers should only be posted on the bulletin board (that we haven't yet put up) in the main entrance. Handouts should be placed on the handout shelf (that we haven't constructed yet) over the radiator by the main entrance. Please reserve the table by the main entrance for IMM materials (our newsletter and flyers). Please date your posts. If necessary posts older than a month will be removed.

### Scent Policy

The meeting is currently working on a scent policy that will be described elsewhere.

## Concern for Welfare of the Community

*We should like to see a greater unity between the religious service of our meetings and the social service of Friends, each being complementary to the other, since they are rooted in the same life and spirit; and to see this expressed in meeting houses which act as centres for varied activities of the surrounding neighborhood.*

— London Yearly Meeting, 1944

Karen Friedeborn has prepared a list of specific opportunities for the Ithaca Monthly Meeting to demonstrate our concern for the welfare of the community. Below are only three of several opportunities for Ithaca Monthly Meeting. On May 31 during a Meetinghouse Discussion, we will discuss specific opportunities for putting Quaker values into action.

For example, there is the Urban Rural Adventure Program of the Ithaca Youth Bureau. This program is designed to build friendships between 5th graders from ICSD schools who will be attending middle school together. Through fun and engaging team building activities and discussion, students identify ways they can empow-

er themselves, support one another and learn social skills useful for successfully navigating middle school. Twenty-four 5-week sessions will be offered after school through out the school year. Providing space free of charge for one week day (2:30- 5:00) would be greatly appreciated!

Another Youth Bureau offering is the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program which provides academic, personal and financial support to young people who show interest in education and/or job training beyond high school, but face obstacles in achieving their goals. This program needs space for family dinners 3-4 times per year.

Are you familiar with Lift Every Voice Concert? This concert is an annual benefit for Village at Ithaca held at the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. The mission of the Village at Ithaca is to advocate for excellence and equity in Ithaca's public schools, by developing strategic community relationships, programs, and services to ensure that students, particularly Black, Latino, and low-income students, consistently meet or exceed local and New York State standards of achievement.

## Speaking Truth into Power: A review of Sandra Steingraber's *Raising Elijah: Protecting Our Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*

—Margaret McCasland

Sandra Steingraber (author of *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*) has always been able to write about subjects we'd rather not hear about (cancer, birth defects, etc.). Her newest book, *Raising Elijah*, is no exception. Global Warming. Endangered species. Fracking. Toxic metals and hormone-altering chemicals in everyday products. Especially in products around children. "The new morbidities of childhood." Morbid stuff indeed. But then she connects the dots in ways that inspire rather than overwhelm us.

She paints the Big Picture right up front (in the not-to-be-skipped Foreword). We face two crises with a common cause. Fossil fuels have caused global climate disruption. Petrochemicals have brought a variety of dangers into everyday life. (The reviewer speaking here: How about them tornadoes? Or West Nile Virus and Lyme disease, which only spread into Upstate New York after we stopped having enough very cold days in winter to kill off introduced pests? Or "better living through chemistry," which correlates with 1 in 8 women getting breast cancer, instead of the pre-World War II rate of 1 in 50 women? The reviewer is being sarcastic).

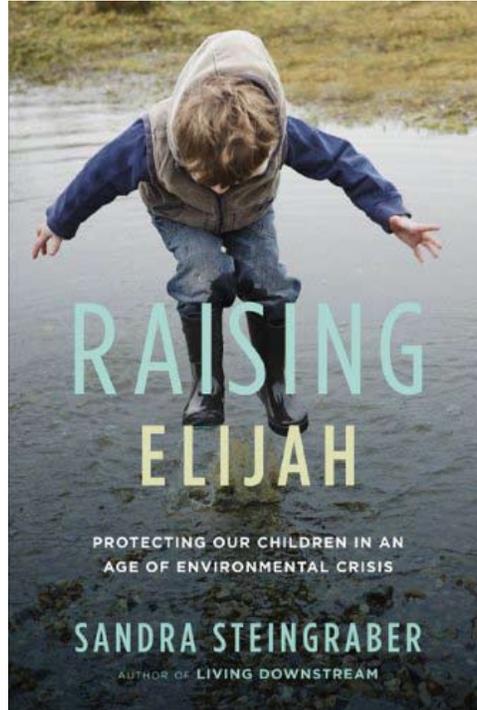
Sandra does not rely on sarcasm. Instead she inspires. She points us to where we should be. Still in the Foreword, she hands us the solution: the book "rejects altogether the notion that toxicity should be a consumer choice. Instead it seeks the higher ground of human rights in which to explore systemic solutions . . ." And then she guides us to the solutions as she explains the nature of the problems.

Parents should not have to police their children's tuna fish sandwich consumption. We, as citizens, should instead be demanding policies that remove the sources of mercury from our ecosystems. This means less coal-fired electricity. (It also means less wrong-scale hydropower, such as HydroQuebec's James Bay projects that release mercury into the Canadian ecosystem—the reviewer speaking up again).

Sandra paints these dual dangers as a full portrait, mixing mundane (meaning daily, not meaning trivial) details of family life with the cosmic (literally combining them in the skylight Jeff built). In everyday terms (even if sometimes using very scientific words), she broadens our perspective, placing narrow worries in the context of what life should be like for our children.

We readers first find ourselves saying, "Oh, I've always wondered about that." Then we say, "Gee, why hasn't someone done something about this?" And then we are ready to start doing our part, thinking thoughts like, "If we get serious about both conserving

energy and building renewable sources, we can drastically reduce our use of fossil fuels." And then we realize that a new, improved economy not fueled by coal, oil or methane (natural gas's true name-that-must-not-be-spoken) would severely limit the production of petrochemicals and other not-so-beneficial by-products.



Reading this book has empowered me in two ways. First, by saying out loud what needs to be said, Sandra's example has given me the courage to more often say what is on my mind. One humorous example: I have long felt that riding lawn mowers were for people with overly large lawns. But she dared to say it out loud: "Here's my idea for a universal philosophy of turf care: A lawn shall not exceed what its owner can comfortably cut with a reel mower. If it's so big that it requires gasoline to manage, it's too big. Plant something else. . . . [A]nd replace the leaf blower and the weed whacker for a rake and a pair of shears. . . . In spite of all kinds of marketing imagery to the contrary, a strong machine doesn't make you strong. When engulfed in the blue haze of a two-stroke engine, it is fossil fuel, not you, babe, that's supplying the torque."

Secondly, this is a book about discerning leadings. In sharing how and why she and Jeff have made choices about how to raise

their family, she provides guidance, not for how we should raise our families, but for how we should make those decisions for ourselves, to clarify our values and then to put them into practice in both our personal lives, but more importantly, as active citizens of a shared planet.

"We are all musicians in a great human orchestra, and it is now time to play the Save the World Symphony. You are not required to play a solo, but you are required to know what instrument you hold and play it as well as you can. You are required to find your place in the score. What we love we must protect. That's what love means. From the right to know and the duty to inquire flows the obligation to act."

Sandra is quoted in the portrait series, *Americans Who Tell the Truth*:

[americanswhotellthetruth.org/pgs/portraits/sandra\\_steingraber.php](http://americanswhotellthetruth.org/pgs/portraits/sandra_steingraber.php)

Coming soon to a library near you: The Earthcare Committee will have a section of books (including *Raising Elijah*), periodicals (such as *BeFriending Creation*), and pamphlets relating to Earthcare, once we have shelves in the library at the Third Street Meeting House. In the meantime, I am happy to loan out the copy of *Raising Elijah* Sandra donated to the IMM library. Sandra's books can also be purchased at *Buffalo Street Books* and *Home Green Home*.

## Memorial Minute for Caroline Pineo

Caroline Pineo, beloved member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, slipped quietly away Saturday, April 16, five days short of her 97th birthday. Caroline was born Caroline Cole on April 21, 1914; as a woman, Caroline was a pioneer years ahead of her time; she was ordained a minister in the Congregational Church at a time when few women received that honor; she was one of three women graduates from Yale Divinity School's Class of '45, and one of two to graduate magna cum laude.

Caroline Cole met Frank Pineo at a religious study group at Colby College; Frank was an undergraduate, Caroline the faculty advisor. The inquisitive student and the bright young faculty advisor shared a passion for the subject of religion; a spark between the two ignited; two years after Frank graduated from Colby, and shortly after Caroline's graduation from Yale, they were married.

Caroline and Frank were the very embodiment of what is best about the Quaker way of life. In 1945, shortly after their marriage, the American Friends Service Committee (A.F.S.C.) sent them to the seaport town of St. Nazaire, in France. Site of an important submarine base, 80% of the town had been leveled by Allied bombing in World War II; most of the city's inhabitants lived in barracks on the outskirts of town. Caroline and Frank spent 18 months as directors of the St. Nazaire Neighborhood Center, one of 14 such centers sponsored by the A.F.S.C. in France, Germany, Austria, Israel, and Japan.

The Center organized sewing groups, many of the women doing beautiful embroidery. Caroline expressed her admiration for these women: "Even in poverty the women embraced beauty where ever they could find it. They always seemed to have fresh picked flowers, if only to center them in a jug on a wooden crate in their room."

The Center provided a carpentry shop, a library, youth clubs, and parties. In 1947, while Caroline and Frank were in St. Nazaire, the American Friends' Service Committee and the British Friends' Service Committee were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their relief work. After 18 months Caroline and Frank turned direction of the center over to residents of St. Nazaire; they closed out their time in France with a six week bicycle tour of Europe.

On their return to the Philadelphia area, they moved to Concord park, an intentionally integrated community in Trevoise, Pa. Caroline went to work for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Religious Education Office; Frank taught special education classes, and helped form Wonderland Puppet Theater with neighbors. The Puppet Theater went to area schools, inspiring children with their message of goodwill, peace, and understanding. Summers Frank and Caroline served as directors of Quaker Camp Onas in Rushland, PA. They taught young people outdoor skills, and through example, how to be a Friend in word and deed—all suffused with their energy, joy, and gentle humor.

In 1979 Caroline and Frank, and their dear friends Helen and Karl Schantz moved to rural Odessa, New York, where they formed a cooperative community. They transferred their membership to Ithaca Friends Meeting, participating in its activities; New York Yearly Meeting, Powell House, and Friends General Conference.

Frank served as Clerk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting from 1982 to 1984, after a particularly tumultuous time in the Meeting's life; Frank's good heart, his sense of humor, his unfailing kindness, and his fairness won the hearts of all, and went far in healing divisions in the Meeting. Caroline and Frank also continued their long history of participation in Quaker peace actions and disarmament demonstrations.

From 1996 to 2001 Caroline and Frank moved to Friends Village in Newtown, reconnecting with old friends from their Concord Park and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting days. In 2001 they returned to Ithaca to live in a retirement center.

Caroline was rarely out of pain in the last years of her life, suffering from both severe arthritis and fibromyalgia. Yet Caroline and Frank faced the challenges and difficulties of old age with courage and fortitude; in 2003, when Frank needed more care, he moved to the Reconstruction Home, a nursing facility. Though he and Caroline missed each other dearly, his cheerfulness warmed everyone around him. For her part, Caroline warmed his heart with her regular visits. Frank passed away on June 22, 2006. As is always the case with the loss of a dearly beloved life partner, an emptiness was created in Caroline's life that she filled courageously with memories, and the visits, phone calls, and cards and letters of friends

For all of those who knew and loved her, there is sadness at Caroline's passing, but greater joy in knowing that, at long last, she is once again with her beloved Frank. Of Caroline as well as Frank it can be truly said, they made the world a better place for the many people whose lives they touched.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*— Tony Gaenslen*

## A few glimpses of Caroline Pineo

*— Helen Schantz*

Her bright smile. Her welcome! A quick mind. An interest in people, wanting to know what one thought and did. Laughter. Celebrating life! A spotless house.

Our family first met the Pineos when we moved to Concord Park, near Philadelphia, in 1956. They delighted in our girls and thought of wonderful, improbable things to do with them. We were invited to "a trip around the world"—each room of the Pineo's house being a different country and even the back yard was included, with the proper décor from their travels. Another time, hearing of our daughters' excitement over once eating in a diner, our family was invited to the Pineo's Early Bird Diner—complete with pretty settings, proper menus, the works – not to mention the delicious food!

When we moved to other places, the Pineos still often came for celebrations and spent every Christmas with us. Then in 1978, our daughters all grown up, Karl and I, Frank and Caroline, purchased the Odessa "farm" and became next door neighbors for the next 18 years. Our daughter Sarah and her husband Eric also joined us and this was a marvelous gift! Caroline and Karl both loved to bake pies and each time some big—or little—accomplishment was made, Caroline invited us all for coffee and pie. We had many  
*"Glimpses" continued on page 6*

"Glimpses" continued from page 5

such celebrations!

In a contrast that I still marvel at, Caroline's cheer came despite much pain from both severe arthritis and fibromyalgia. She told me once that she had never had a day without pain. In one of her later Christmas letters from Longview, she wrote, "Mary (Dellavalle Balliett) is experimenting with a very new treatment for fibromyalgia: muscular-skeletal therapy. With her finger on a "trigger point" where pain is sharp, muscle is pulled into unusual positions to find where pain is less and then held one minute before release and relief. Mary says everyone with this disease has some 'points' but I have them all! Being generous is not always a blessing. . ."

It was difficult to help Caroline. She didn't want to need assistance. One brief period of time she couldn't raise her arms and finally allowed me to hang up her laundry. I was startled to find that I had to be almost on tiptoes to reach her clothesline—and Caroline was shorter than I! Somehow this seemed symbolic of the way Caroline pushed herself almost beyond her own limits, daily. I hung up her laundry (my way) that first day, and she thanked me. A couple of days later, Caroline instructed me on just how she wanted the clothes hung up. I knew she was getting well! Another time when Caroline had just been ill, Sarah and I offered to bring her supper. When we arrived with the food, we found Caroline on her hands and knees scrubbing her kitchen floor. Yes, it was hard to help Caroline! I am thankful that in these last years, Darlene Barrows has been able to minister to her with good care, healthful food, and laughter.

Years ago when Marjorie Burttt was very ill in the hospital, our Midweek Meeting began holding times of prayer at four-hour intervals around the clock. The Pineos chose the 2:00 a. m. time, Caroline telling me that she felt it would be the most effective prayer because it required more effort. (That speaks volumes to me about the way she lived.)

Caroline and Frank had many, many friends and kept in touch with them over long years of loving connection. Caroline's praise often was that they were "just ordinary folks". Once when I apologized for a rather noisy time of our grandchildren running in and out, Caroline said "I never mind people noises." Often friends came to visit them, staying overnight, or perhaps for several days and nights. When the friends left, Caroline would comment on her own visible weariness: "It's a happy tiredness."

These last years of Caroline's life, I have not seen her and have only written cards. She had not often shared her inner, reflective spirit, but I cherish one of the last notes from her written in 2003 after a Christmas when she lived in Longview but Frank was in the Reconstruction Home:

*Christmas was a very new experience for me: one person instead of many. The Silence filled every nook and cranny. A few calls broke it with gladness and news. I had breakfast in the dining-room for my one-a-day meal knowing noon would be crowded with no supper served. Can't hear well in such circumstances. Christmas cards to reread and a head and heart full of memories filled much time.*

Bless you, dear Caroline!

## Spring Gathering

This annual gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Region runs Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, **May 20-22, 2011**, at the Salvation Army Long Point Conference Center on Seneca Lake, Penn Yan. Inspiration and fun for all: worship, Bible study, workshops, nature walks, games, crafts, singing, contra dance and more! This year's event features David Zarembka, Coordinator, African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams. Families welcome! Child-care, youth and teen programs. Registration materials at the regional website: <[www.quakerwny.com](http://www.quakerwny.com)>. Or, speak with Bronwyn Mohlke for more information.

## Summer Schedule for Hector Meetinghouse

After much discussion and listening, Ministry and Worship recommended and the Meeting approved the following schedule: 10:30 AM Meetings for Worship at the 3rd Street Meetinghouse throughout the summer months; 10:30 AM Meetings for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse during July and August:

In July the Meeting will decide whether to extend Meetings for Worship through September at Hector.

Childcare will be available at both Hector and Ithaca meetinghouses. First Day School will continue at the 3rd Street Meetinghouse until the end of June.

## Meeting Friends

Susan Wolf will be going to San Francisco to co-present an AVP workshop on welcoming participants with vision and hearing loss over Memorial Day weekend, and then going on to Hawaii for a 3-week house swap with a friend—she'll live in Susan's house while Susan is living in hers. Susan's son and his partner and Susan's daughter and granddaughter will join her there, so it will be something of a family reunion too. Susan will be returning home June 22nd.

Ginny Gartlein sends thanks from Jay Gartlein and his family for Meeting's support and loving notes after Jay's wife's sudden passing. Jay is busy working on his house and helping support his mother in law who is now at Cayuga Ridge. Ginny appreciates friends holding our family in the light.

## Talking Circles on Racism

The Multicultural Resource Center invites community members to share in the opportunity to effectuate social change through a shared dialogue on race and racism. Circle participants have a unique opportunity to reflect, to share personal experiences, and their perspectives.

Five Wednesdays beginning May 18, 6:30-8:30p

A \$25 participant donation is requested to offset related costs. For more information or to register, please contact Sarah Reistetter-Akiri @ [sr85@cornell](mailto:sr85@cornell) or 272-2292 x191.

## Minutes of the April 17, 2011 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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**201104.1 Gathering.** Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in the Third Street Meetinghouse on April 17, 2011. At 12:10 PM, 15 Friends settled into worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and extended our appreciation to Elspeth Rhodin and Nancy Gabriel for holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read Query #14 from NYYM: "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? A period of silent worship followed this reading.

**201104.2 Consent Agenda.** After referring Friends to the published Trustees Report, Clerk recommended approval for the section of the trustees report entitled "Clear title to the Hector Meetinghouse and property" regarding clarifying the status of IMM's ownership of the Hector Meetinghouse and property.

Trustees requested this action because during several discussions about the Third Street Meetinghouse questions were also raised regarding the Hector Meetinghouse. One such question has been about a rumor that if we did not use the Hector Meetinghouse it would revert to the family of the owner who gave us use of it. Trustees have researched the deed to the property at the Tompkins County Court House. To set the record straight we are recommending that our findings be recorded in the Minutes. Our search yielded the following:

The Hector Meetinghouse was "conveyed by deed of Charles B. Owen and Adell Owen to the Hector Monthly Meeting, A Society of Friends, by deed dated July 27, 1901, and recorded on July 27, 1901 in the Tompkins County Clerk's Office Liber 156 of Deeds at page 275. The deed contained the following condition, 'In case the society known as the Hector Monthly Meeting, should cease to exist or in case the premises herein described should be used for purposes other than those for which they are now used, then in either such events this conveyance shall fall and the premises shall revert to and become a part of my estate.'"

By "quit claim deeds" signed by each of the three surviving heirs of Charles B. and Adell Owen in March 1978 the "Hector Monthly Meeting is no longer in existence and the grantee herein is not a successor in interest. Grantor, herein is a daughter of Charles B Owen and Adelle Owen. She and Elizabeth Rodda and Eunice M Hopkins are the sole surviving heirs of said Charles B. and Adell Owen. The premises are now being used by the grantee" [Ithaca Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers)] "and it is the intention of this deed to extinguish the reversion contained in the deed of July 27, 1901 and convey the premises to the grantee outright without any condition or reversion" (filed in the Tompkins County Clerk's office Liber 563, page 714). Signer: Martha Murray, March 21, 1978; Eunice M. Hopkins, March 28, 1978; and Elizabeth Rodda, March 31, 1978.

By Letter dated November 29, 1977 from Martha Murray to the lawyers who represented the Ithaca Monthly Meeting when the Quit Claim Deeds were signed, Martha Murray states her understanding that the "Ithaca Monthly Meeting have indicated an interest in keeping up the care of the cemetery where of our ancestors are buried. We hope this is their plan." This understanding was not included in the Quit Claim Deed, and is not legally binding on IMM. It has been the

general understanding of IMM and remains so today that IMM intends to maintain the cemetery on what is now known as the Hector Meetinghouse property. APPROVED @

**201104.3 Ministry and Worship (M&W).** Carolyn Kenyon reported for Ministry and Worship.

A. She reported that M&W recommended approval of the request they received from Sandra Steingrabber and Jeff deCastro that their children Faith deCastro and Elijah deCastro be approved for membership. APPROVED @

B. Summer schedule for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse: Carolyn Kenyon read the options M&W considered regarding the different issues. M&W recommended:

IMM have simultaneous 10:30 AM Meetings for Worship at the Hector and Third Street Meetinghouses during the months of July and August. In July we will decide whether to continue Meetings for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse through September. We recommend the Meeting hire two child care persons, one for each location. If needed, we ask the Meeting to provide CALM with additional financial support for this purpose. APPROVED @

C. Request approval to host Healing Ithaca Prayer Service on Tuesday, October 4, 5:15 to 5:45 PM.

The purpose of Healing Ithaca is to create healing and connection within Ithaca and Tompkins County through prayer and community-building. It began following the arson at the home of Officer Bryan Bangs and the death of community member Shawn Greenwood. These services are held in different churches throughout the community and are open to the public. More information is available at <http://www.stpaulsithaca.org/node/114>. APPROVED @

D. Process Minute for Membership. Carolyn Kenyon read M&W's process minute regarding the meaning of membership. M&W requested MM to accept the process minute as published in their report with the addition of a statement of our current practices. The Process Minute will be published in our Newsletter. It will be brought back to MM at a future date. APPROVED @

**201104.4 Publicity Committee.** Pat Sewell reported that the Publicity Committee proposed a way for IMM to participate in the Ithaca Festival Parade. The Committee's suggestion has been approved by the Festival Committee and the Publicity Committee is recommending MM approve this participation. MM APPROVED participation in the Parade and APPROVED the Publicity Committee being charged with considering Friends suggestions and determining the content of the message IMM will present. APPROVED @

**201104.5 Third Street Meetinghouse.** Marion DaGrossa reported that after consideration of several options, the Committee recommended that IMM use the "Third Street Meetinghouse" for internal documents to clearly distinguish this building from our other properties. APPROVED @

**201104.6 Trustees Report.** Marilyn Ray read the following recommended change in the charge for the three property Committees

"Minutes" continued from page 7

with buildings: Burt House, Hector Meetinghouse, and Third Street Meetinghouse:

The Committee Clerk, or a designee, will meet semi-annually, or as needed, with other IMMS Property Committee Clerks or designees for purposes of coordinating around issues of shared interest. The Clerk of the Third Street Meeting House Property Committee will serve as convener. APPROVED @

**201104.7 Report from Naming Committee.** Tonia Saxon reported that the Naming Committee had met and recommended Tom Brown and Beth Jolles to three year terms on the Nominating Committee. APPROVED @

**201104.8 Treasurer's Report.** Mike Simkin reported that we have received \$120,000 in loans to date to cover the gap between bills received for renovations to the Third Street Meetinghouse and receipt of pledges. To date we have received about 1/4th the donations for the year. It is unusual for IMM to have received this amount of donations at this time of the year. Expenses to date are routine. Report Received. @

**201104.9 Other Concerns** (None reported)

At 2:00pm, 16 Friends settled into silent worship before adjourning. We will gather again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 15, 2011 at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk*

## May 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

### **Memorial for Jean Parker Sunday, May 1, 2pm**

A memorial service will be held to honor the life of Jean Shearer Parker followed by tea.

### **Peace Witness Committee Saturday, May 7, 10:45a**

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

### **Planting Day Sunday, May 8, 12:30p**

The Garden Committee is having our planting day at the meetinghouse. (Mother's Day is a good day to honor Mother Earth in addition to our human mothers.) Please bring plants you would like to donate. And if you can, stay after meeting to help us plant them. We will provide dirt and tools!

### **Meetinghouse Discussions Monday, May 9, 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.

### **Every Sunday**

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather upstairs. Please be mindful of the sounds!

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 15, noon**

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

### **Women's Fellowship Friday, May 19, 7p**

Enjoy fellowship with your dinner, tea and/or a pastry at the Ithaca Bakery.

### **Dish to Pass Brunch Sunday, May 22, Rise of Meeting**

Bring something to share for a light brunch.

### **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, May 26, 5p**

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu).

### **Meetinghouse Discussions Tuesday, May 31, 7:15p**

Please join us at the Meetinghouse for this evening discussion. (See May 9th for fuller description.)

### **Hold the Date: Burt House Work Day Saturday, June 11, 10a-2p**

Spring is slowly arriving and the Burt House will be ready for its yearly spring cleaning. F/friends of all ages and abilities are invited to join in the effort. Come for a short time or stay all day! Food will be provided. Fellowship will be shared by all.

### **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