



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

August 2012

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
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

Ministry & Worship:

Tonia Saxon
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Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

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

The Burt House

The Burt House—at 227 Willard Way and overlooking Fall Creek—is the former home of Ned and Marjorie Burt. The house was given to Meeting in 1989, and is currently used as a residence, as a place for sojourners, and for some Meeting events.

Interim Director

The Burt House Committee and Working Group is pleased to announce that Violet Goncarovs is our new interim Friend-in-Residence at the Burt House. Violet will begin transitioning to her new role soon and will take over on August 24, 2012. Violet has agreed to fill this position through December 2012. Any items that you would have approached Mary Balfour about (such as holding meetings, living, or sojourning at the Burt House), can be directed to Violet starting Aug. 24. She can be reached at violet.goncarovs@gmail.com, on her cell at 607-342-0969, and of course at the Burt House number at 607-273-5421.

Violet brings to this role many years of Quaker experience and has taken leadership roles in Friends and Peace Witness activities in high school and as a young adult. She has also been a resident of the Burt House, both as part of her family and as an individual.

We thank Mary Balfour for her 6.5 years of service to Meeting as Friend-in-Residence. Her friendly presence (and scones) will be missed.

Burt House Seeks Residents

The Burt House seeks residents for two rooms for the fall, available as early as August. Residents have private rooms and share in use of the kitchen and eating areas as well as upkeep of shared spaces. We seek residents who desire cooperative living in a Quaker setting. Residents sign a rental agreement pertaining to the above. No lease is required.

For further information, through Aug. 23, contact Mary Balfour, Friend-in-Residence, at 273-5421; cell phone 342-6657; e-mail mbalfour123@gmail.com. After Aug. 24, contact Violet Goncarovs, interim Friend-in-Residence through the fall at 273-5421; cell phone 607-342-0969; e-mail violet.goncarovs@gmail.com. There is an application process; the initial application can be sent and returned by e-mail.

Replacement Director Sought

We are still seeking a more permanent Friend-in-Residence, starting January 1, 2013 (although a time period of transition with Violet would be welcomed). Any interested adult or couple may contact Fell Cadwallader (creativeconsonance@gmail.com) for a detailed job description.

— *Melissa Travis Dunham and Tom Brown*

August in Ithaca Monthly Meeting's History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

Note: In the more recent 5-year increments covered in this column (i.e. 5 years ago, 10 years ago), IMM has not held a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in August.

25 Years Ago (August 10, 1987)

Ron Ozer reported on Sanctuary news. Juan (a resident Salvadoran refugee in Sanctuary) has found work painting four days per week. He is making progress in learning English. He is available to tell his story, with the help of an interpreter, to any who are interested.

35 Years Ago (August 8, 1977)

It was reported noted that Hiroshima Day had been observed with a talk by Ned Burtt, a march, and an all-night vigil.

60 Years Ago (August 11, 1952).

Plans were made for the annual reception for Young Friends as they return to campus later in the month. Harrop Freeman stated emphatically that he would take on the role of Young Friends Coordinator only if he could be free of imposing a program on the Young Friends (several ideas and opportunities were mentioned previously) and if he could carry on this work without maintaining an office in Anabel Taylor Hall, as he felt he could not be personally associated, in his own mind or in the minds of the students, with a War Memorial. Meeting approved leaving Harrop free in these respects.

65 Years Ago (August 11, 1947)

Edwin Burtt told the Meeting of his experiences in China and India the previous year. He laid particular stress on his reasons for having taken the vows of a Buddhist layman, stating his belief that every major religion of the world gives valuable emphasis to a particular facet of religious truth, that the best religion of the future will unite peoples and will select the best from every present religion, and that by becoming a Buddhist while remaining a Christian, he could best express his indebtedness to Buddhism and his faith in the religion of the future.

On Vacation in August

Please note that the following monthly events will not take place in August:

- Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
- Women's Fellowship

Both events will resume in September.

Furniture, Treasures, Building Materials Cluttering Your Home ?

Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties is gearing up for a huge sale, and we need your help. We are looking for used building materials, furniture, working appliances, "treasures" and antiques that could be donated to our sale. Habitat would gladly accept the donation of the following items (in good condition) as part of our fundraiser.

- Furniture
- Working appliances (not older than 5 years)
- Treasures and antiques
- Building materials (windows, cabinets, lumber, etc.)

We are planning to hold a big sale to raise funds for use towards our mission of eliminating substandard and poverty housing. We have yet to decide on a specific date or location, but will be sending that information out as soon as possible to parties interested in helping us.

If you have items you want to donate, or would like more information, please contact Andrea at 607-753-8510 or Gerry at 607-898-3903.

There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end.

—James Naylor

Advices & Queries from NYM 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?

**Minutes of the July 9, 2012 Monthly Meeting for
Worship with Attention to Business
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

Clerk: Steve Mohlke

Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel, Marilyn Ray, and Susan Ruff

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports referred to during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerks.)

201207.1 Opening. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, on July 9, 2012. At 7:05 PM, 10 Friends were gathered. Four Friends had held the room and the Meeting in the Light before Clerk opened the meeting for business and reviewed the agenda. Clerk read from Discernment, Theology, and Prayer, by Roy M. Oswald and Robert E. Friedrich, evoking some of the ways in which we may listen for God's communication with us. After the reading, we continued in open worship.

201207.2 Program Committee. Lynne Truame presented the report. Following the survey which the committee distributed earlier this year, they are taking initiatives to bring to IMM the kinds of programs responders were interested in. One suggestion, to bring Jon Watts and Maggie Harrison to present their "Clothe Yourself in Righteousness" program here, would incur expenses that exceed the Program Committee budget. After consulting with Finance Committee, Program brought the request that Meeting authorize up to \$1,000 beyond the amount budgeted for this year. Friends discussed the matter and the request was APPROVED. @

201207.3 Hector Meetinghouse Committee (HMH). Clerk informed us of a request from a group seeking to use the HMH for worship on Saturdays. The whole HMH Committee has not had a meeting to consider the request. Jim Finlay, committee clerk, indicated some of the questions and concerns which ought to be included in the decision-making process. Clerk invited Friends to add other factors which the committee might consider. After expressing a range of thoughts, the Meeting united in supporting the HMH Committee to make a short-term arrangement that promotes care of the property and its spiritual integrity. @

201207.4 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin, Treasurer, presented the June report, including the balance sheet which sums up our year-to-date financial situation. Friends received the report. @

Ten Friends settled into worship at 8:50 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on September 9, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

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Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

Minute on Indigenous Peoples at NYYM

At New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Summer Sessions, the following minute was approved:

Minute on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Doctrine of Discovery

We seek to live in a just peace with our fellow human beings, both as individuals, and as peoples.

The United States has formally declared its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007. We now call on the United States Senate to enact the legislation that will make this the law of the land in the United States of America.

We repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, which originated in the 15th century from Papal Bulls and European royal charters issued at that time. The Doctrine of Discovery mandated the seizure of lands belonging to any non-Christian peoples and encouraged the enslavement, exploitation, or eradication of those peoples. We cannot accept that the Doctrine of Discovery was ever a true authority for the forced takings of lands and the enslavement or extermination of peoples. It is reprehensible for the United States to use the Doctrine of Discovery to as a legal doctrine to compel a jurisdiction over Indigenous Peoples or their lands.

We honor the inalienable rights of Indigenous Peoples to their homelands, water, spiritual practices, languages, cultural practices, and to self-government, all of which sustain life and the life of a People, and the autonomy of Indigenous Peoples. An Indigenous People has the right to make decisions and establish constructive arrangements with other nations, governments and peoples on their own behalf.

The Doctrine of Discovery (DOD, also called the Doctrine of Christian Discovery) is a principle of law developed in a series of 15th century Papal bulls and 16th century charters by Christian European monarchs on the basis of which much of the rest of the world was explored and colonized by Europeans. It contained a theological justification of colonization that later became a nationalistic one. The DOD is the basis for United States policy regarding native peoples.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, overwhelmingly passed in 2007 after two decades of work, repudiates the DOD and calls upon the nations of the world to respect the land claims of their indigenous peoples and treaties made with indigenous peoples. The United States is one of only four countries in the world that originally voted against the declaration (the others being Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Since then, all four have claimed to endorse the Declaration without taking steps to implement it.

For more information about this minute, the Doctrine of Discovery, and/or New York Yearly Meeting's discussion, contact Melanie-Claire Mallison.

Young Friends' Student Welcome Picnic

Saturday, August 25, at 5:30 p.m.

A welcome for new and returning students and young adult Friends. Come enjoy sandwiches, fresh-squeezed lemonade, and sundaes with homemade hot fudge sauce. Weather permitting, we'll also have our traditional game of croquet on the lawn and a chance to stroll down to the waterfall. Rides are available from Robert Purcell Center (Jessup Rd. side) at 5:15 — look for the car with a FRIENDS sign.

The Young Friends group is made up of college and grad-student aged people with Quaker backgrounds or an interest in the Friends community. We meet about once a month during the academic year for meals together, movies, hikes, or service-related projects. Students sometimes give presentations to the group about their area of study or share slide shows of their field work. We look forward to another year together and to welcoming new students! Check the IMM website for updates: <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends/>

For more information, contact Lenora Schneller, (607) 272-3788, ls258@cornell.edu

August 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

On August 6, 1945 at 8:15 AM, in Hiroshima, Japan, the first nuclear bomb was dropped.

On August 9, 1945 at 11:02 AM, in Nagasaki, Japan, the second nuclear bomb was dropped

Silent Vigil Remembrance: Hiroshima Monday, August 6, 5:30p

Join in a one-hour silent vigil (rain or shine) at the Peace Pole in front of the Ithaca Friends Center/Burt House, 227 North Willard Way. This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the instant of the blast, and of those who suffered and died from their injuries.

Peace Vigil Remembrance: Nagasaki Thursday, August 9, 5p

On Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 5:00 PM, the regular time of the Quaker weekly peace vigil, at the foot of State Street, our posters and peace messages will be in solemn remembrance of Hiroshima Day. Please plan to join us. Add more voices to the message of peace.

We will not be overwhelmed. We hope that in remembering we will continue to seek global peace and justice.

Earthcare Committee Thursday, August 16, 12:30-2:30

All are invited to join at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Every Sunday

9:30a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse and at Hector Meetinghouse

10:45a **First Day School**-aged Friends exit the meetingroom.
Note: there is no formal First Day School programming in the summer.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, August 23rd, 5p

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

Young Friends' Student Welcome Picnic Saturday, August 25th, 5:30p

Join students at the Burt House Friends Center, 227 N Willard Way. See inset, above.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, August 26, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join in fellowship. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share.

Save the Date: Porchfest, Sunday Sept. 16

We are planning to host musicians again, be a restroom stop, and have a bake sale at this year's Porchfest. To volunteer, or if you are interested in performing, please contact Wendy Wolfe.

Save the Dates: Pastoral Care Discussion September 23 and October 28

The Pastoral Care Committee encourages F/friends to save these after-Sunday-brunch dates for adult discussions on end-of-life issues. One session will feature a staff member from Hospicare who will discuss with us how to be supportive when a F/friend is dying and/or how to support someone who is grieving. The other session will focus on burial (and other post-mortem) options in our region.

Other Weekly IMM Events

Wed 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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