

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

December 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
607-387-5244 • tonia@iecc.com

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

Burt House:

Violet Goncarov, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way • 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

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others about events in the Ithaca community, broader social causes or other non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:

mlr17@cornell.edu

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org



Sue Ruff, Kris Altucher, Rosie Altucher, and Thea Clarkberg enjoying "Meeting for Beading" in the Activity room upstairs in the meetinghouse. More pictures on page 2.

Longer Term Rentals - A Threshing Session for January 6

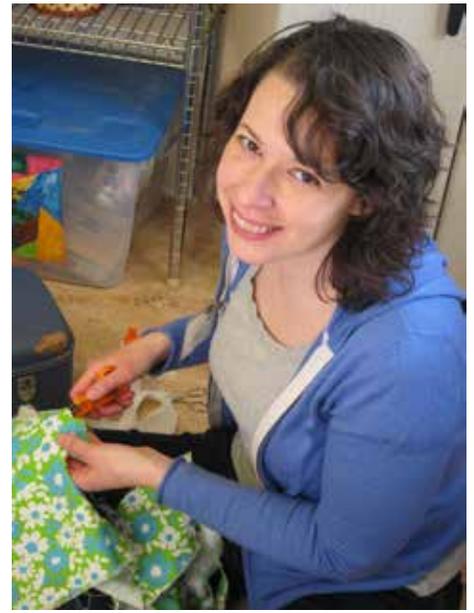
As part of a minute approved at the November Meeting for Business, the question of long-term rental of our meetinghouse arose. Early after moving to the new meetinghouse, Ithaca Monthly Meeting minuted its wish not to rent to any individual or group indefinitely until we find out more about how we use the meetinghouse ourselves.

Over the last year and a half, we've learned more about ourselves and what it is like to be in that building. We have a better understanding of what it takes to operate and maintain it. We recently extended the rental period for a religious group using the building on Sunday afternoons. It is time to look at the question of long-term rental.

We are inviting the meeting to a threshing session at 9:00am on Sunday, January 6. A threshing session is an opportunity to hear each other's views on a matter without any attempt to make a decision. We'll have the opportunity to reflect on the following:

What kinds of tenants do we want to encourage: non-profit groups; educational groups; individuals who use the classrooms as offices; religious groups. What are the drawbacks of each? What are the advantages? How much does it matter what beliefs or principles a renter espouses? How important is rental income? How are we called?

— Steve Mohlke



Emily Williams, Bronwyn Mohlke and Melissa Travis Dunham engaged in handcraft during Meeting for Beading.

Giving to IMM

Friends, our Meeting takes money to run. The November Treasure's report indicated that only about \$26,000 of the budgeted \$55,300 for 2012 had been received by October 31. (see page 5). Our costs include property maintenance, outreach activities, and a contribution to New York Yearly Meeting to assist in the operations of our "parent" organization.

Some Friends manage their giving by providing a single donation, such as at the end of the year. Others prefer to manage their giving by donating a set among on a regular basis.

Meeting Treasurer Mike Simkin has set up a way for you to make donations to Meeting easily and regularly using electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Meeting's. To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form to the right 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. If you have any question feel free to email or call Mike Simkin at mes13@cornell.edu or 607-387-5174.

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):

- General Operating Fund \$ _____
- Building Fund \$ _____
- Kitchen Cupboard _____ \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____

Total

Date of first contribution: ___/___/___

Frequency of contribution (check one):

- Weekly – Mondays
- Bi-Weekly (every other week)
- Semi-monthly – 1st and 15th
- Monthly on the 1st
- Monthly on the 15th

CHECKING / SAVINGS

Complete this section if using your checking or savings account

Please debit my (check one):

- Checking account—attach voided check
- Savings account—attach voided deposit slip

Routing #:

Account #:

Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3

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: / /

Help with Alternative to Violence Project (AVP)

Would anyone be interested in helping with the logistics of planning our AVP workshops? This might include distributing fliers, helping to organize a meal, meeting with a community organization to engage their support, or other planning tasks. Our next workshop will be the weekend of February 15-17. Please contact Nancy Gabriel or Susan Wolf if you would like to help. We really would appreciate any assistance you can give!

Community Email: Listserv and Marilyn's List

Friends are reminded that we have multiple ways to communicate via email. First, we have an IMM listserv. This listserv is to be used for announcements directly related to IMM or broader Quaker bodies *only*. Directions for subscribing to this fairly low traffic listserv are on page 1, in the left panel.

Marilyn Ray also maintains a less formal mailing list where she distributes items of broad interest. Marilyn is happy to forward messages related to social and political causes as well as events that are open and of interest to the broader Ithaca community. To participate in Marilyn's list, please contact her at mlr17@cornell.edu.

— *Marin Clarkberg*

Lost....

Betsy Keokosky helped bring food for an AVP workshop in October. Since that dinner, she has been missing her pot. It is a kind of institutional looking pot: very thick and heavy and taller than it is wide. Perhaps you took this pot home if you were also helping with the dinner? If so, can you please contact Betsy so she can retrieve her pot? Thanks!

... and Found

Even when the Meetinghouse is empty, the coat rack is full! Please check the rack to see if you have left anything behind. You might be surprised.

Home for Holidays Concert

Come hear several meeting folks sing in this concert of the Voices Multicultural Chorus, Saturday, Dec 15, 3pm at Ford Hall.

The concert will include an eclectic selection of holiday music from around the world, plus a few spirituals.

Greetings

Susan Wolf sends greetings from Sebastopol, CA. She has attended Redwood Meeting (in Santa Rosa) and Appleseed Meeting (in Sebastopol) and carried greetings from Ithaca Friends. She misses Ithaca Meeting and its lively mix of youth and adults, and especially misses meeting with the Power Quakers.

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 2. Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct, and to encourage the practice by their families and others.

Advice 3. Friends are advised to be mindful of their conduct and conversation and to observe the testimonies of simplicity and moderation.

Advice 4. Friends are advised to observe our Christian testimony for a faithful ministry of the gospel under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Members are reminded that all have a responsibility in ministry.

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?

Query 3. Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?

December in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

10 Years Ago (December 8, 1992)

Meeting approved the following policy on youth membership, which is still in effect:

“Children or parents may request membership for any child(ren) under the age of 16, if neither parent objects. Between the ages of 16 and 23, a youth member may request a committee for clearness for membership to affirm her/his membership. At the age of 23, if a youth who became a member before her/his 16th birthday has not affirmed her/his membership, s/he will be removed from the membership list.”

50 Years Ago (December 10, 1962)

The fair held by the First-day School children on December 2 was financially successful and the Meeting agreed to submit the full proceeds to Algerian relief through the AFSC. Perhaps of greater significance was the happy spirit of cooperation which drew children and parents together in this effort.

60 Years Ago (Summary, several months of 1952)

The Friends World Conference was held in Oxford, England with the general theme “The Vocation of Friends in the Modern World.” Sub-themes were “Man’s Condition”; “The Christian Answer”; and “Our Faith and Service.” Of 450 American delegates out of a total of 900, 16 were from NYYM. Ed Cranch was the official delegate of IMM; Harrop Freeman of IMM also attended in another capacity. Today in late 2012, Ed remembers the conference as inspiring—a kind of taking stock of where we were after WWII plus

looking forward. Other memories of that trip to Britain that Ed recently shared:

“After the conference I acquired a motorcycle and embarked on a ‘figure 8’ tour of Wales, east coast of northern England and to Edinburgh. I then headed north to the Highlands and Inverness, then went west & south in Scotland to the Lake District, visiting several Quaker sites - a kind of pilgrimage. I then went south to the city of York to visit the grave of John Woolman, then south through the Midlands to the southwest and south coasts, ending up in Southampton pretty much exhausted! At the Conference was a roster of family names throughout Britain where one could stay for a day or so. I took extensive advantage of this by staying most of the nights with Quaker families in Wales, Scotland and Great Britain Meeting and establishing friendships with many fine families. Along the way I attended several Meetings for Worship. It was a great experience.”

75 Years Ago (December 12, 1937)

A special business meeting was held to consider taking formal action toward formation of a monthly meeting. Clerk Alfred Wray was instructed to apply to the Fellowship Council, an arm of AFSC which has recently been empowered to assist in the formation of new monthly meetings. [Previously Ithaca Friends were independently organized as the Ithaca Association of Friends (IAF), formed March 7, 1926. IAF had a clerk, treasurer, and program committee as well as an annual meeting, and typically met monthly during the academic year. However, IAF was not an official monthly meeting and therefore could not offer Quaker membership locally. IAF kept a roster of local members and attenders which typically listed the yearly meeting to which local Quakers belonged.]

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, November 11, 2012

Clerk: Steve Mohlke

Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel and Marilyn Ray

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

201211.1 Opening

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, on November 11, 2012. At 12:10 PM, eighteen Friends were gathered in worship. Assistant Clerk Antonia Saxon, clerking today’s meeting, opened the meeting for business and reviewed the agenda, extending our gratitude to Ellie Rosenberg, who was holding the Meeting in the Light. Carolyn Kenyon read the Memorial

Minute for Marjorie Baines, and Friends continued in open worship.

201211.2 Continuing Quaker Education

The Clerks and Ministry and Worship Committee have been focusing attention on practices and procedures in our business meetings. Carolyn Kenyon presented this month’s topic: what makes for good committee reports, that enhance and facilitate the conduct of business in the spirit of worship. • A good committee report is written in complete sentences. • A good committee report includes the names of the committee members and a word or two about the committee’s history with this matter—has it been considering it for three months? A year? • A good committee report is written like a newspaper report: it answers the questions Who? What? When? Where? Why? • A good committee report lays out all the information the committee has gathered—all the numbers,

prices, dates, and so on. • A good committee report gives details about concerns the committee itself had as it discussed the issue. • A good committee anticipates questions the meeting will ask and answers them. This saves a lot of time. Consider writing the report in the form of an FAQ (“Frequently Asked Questions”). • A good committee report allows people to see all sides of the issue. • A good committee report explains why the committee is making the recommendation it is, and also explains why the committee rejected all the other possibilities. @

201211.3 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)

Marion DaGrossa brought the committee’s proposal for a more formal agreement with the Greater Bethlehem Tabernacle Church (GBTC) for extending their use of the meetinghouse through February 2013. The report reviews the four-month history of GBTC’s holding weekly worship in our meetinghouse, and sets out specific items which will be discussed with their representatives. Friends’ questions and discussion covered these terms, but also some broader underlying concerns raised by an agreement for long-term use of the meetinghouse. For example, there seems to be an important distinction in Friends’ minds about use of the building by a faith community as opposed to secular or neighborhood tenants.

Friends APPROVED the recommendation that TSMC negotiate a verbal agreement, which will include fees, for GBTC to continue worshipping in our meetinghouse through February 2013, with the understanding that during these months IMM will have deeper conversations about the broad issues. Antonia committed the Clerks to initiating a process to identify the issues and considering appropriate formats to discuss them. @

2012011.4 Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Sue Ruff brought the report which focused on the committee’s recommendations for donations from the budget line requiring the Meeting’s approval. Details about this year’s proposed recipients were distributed in advance and can be obtained from SJC. Meeting APPROVED the committee’s recommendations: \$100 to the Fistula Foundation; \$100 to Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources of Tompkins County; \$100 to Island Harvest; and \$200 to the Afghan Women’s Fund. In addition, the report included information about the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program, which has received donations from SJC discretionary funds. @

201211.5 Ministry and Worship (M&W)

The Memorial Minute for Marjorie Baines, which had been read earlier in the meeting, was received. Clerk will forward the Minute to NYYM. @

201211.6 Finance Committee and Treasurer’s Report

Will White, convenor, reported on the status of the Budget process for 2013. He pointed out that the current Treasurer’s report indicates that only about \$26,000 of the budgeted \$55,300 for 2012 had been received by October 31.

The budget process this year takes place against the background of declining contributions since 2010 and of funds needed for further improvements that had been planned for the Third Street Meetinghouse. Through 2010, the Meeting had set and met ambitious goals to meet the challenge of acquiring and renovating the new meetinghouse; in 2011 there was a \$14,000 gap between projected contributions and the amount donated.

Finance Committee asks for input from the Meeting as a whole about how to cover the Phase III improvements (e.g. elevelte, safety-conscious doors on second-floor rooms, sound system to improve conditions for hearing-impaired persons). Should the funds be raised by requesting higher donations in the 2013 budget, or should the budget reflect only ongoing costs and commitments and Meeting would start a separate funding drive for the meetinghouse improvements? Friends are asked to send their comments to Will White or others on Finance Committee in time for the 2013 budget to be prepared for the December business meeting.

Will then presented the recommendations which the committee wrote in response to a request for guidelines for determining a committee’s budget request and for spending their budgeted funds. They wrote a separate set of recommendations for property oversight committees. These guidelines will become part of Finance Committee’s annual Fall recommendations to committees about preparing their requests.

Friends received the report. @

201211.7 Nominating Committee

Tom Brown presented and reviewed the draft roster of 2013 individual and committee assignments, and gave some background on the year’s work of Nominating Committee. Our evolving experience in the new meetinghouse has led Nominating to begin to assemble a task group on Hospitality. Tom can send an electronic copy of the draft of 2013 nominees upon request, and anyone with questions or comments should contact the Nominating Committee (Tom Brown, Nancy Gabriel, Blair Jennings, Beth Jolles, Connie Thomas). Friends received the report. @

201211.8 Other Concerns

No other concerns were raised.

Sixteen Friends settled into worship at 2:35 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on December 9, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

December 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, December 2, 9:45a

Join us upstairs every first Sunday of the month for a gentle yoga class led by Nick Boyar. Gentle stretching, relaxation, and breathing exercises. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Holiday/Solstice Sing Saturday, December 8, 7p

Come to our Holiday/Solstice Sing at 112 Mt Pleasant. Bring snacks to share if you like. Ron Liso is helping organize, Susan Murphy will play piano. We're singing, "Mean Mr. Grinch", "Happy Christmas" by John Lennon, "Light one Candle" by Peter Yarrow, "Turning of the Year" a Solstice Song by Mustard's Retreat as well as carols and contemporary songs like "Let It Snow" and "Winter Wonderland". Bring your favorite and we'll sing that too. So much music, so little time, Melody and Dick 272-8755.

Music Before Meeting Sunday, December 9, 9:45a

A casual gathering for singing before Meeting for Worship. We will use songbooks at the Meetinghouse. Since it's December, tastes may drift toward the Yule-ish. See also December 23rd.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, December 9, Rise of meeting

Agenda items to Steve Mohlke, Clerk, by the preceding Wednesday.

Words... Why Easier Than Action Sunday, December 9, 9a

Join us for an adult discussion led by Fell Cadwallader. From the earliest days our Faith has called on each of us to act in accordance with our highest aspirations as well as the acknowledgement we are one. Yet...do we? And when we do not...why not? Think about these questions through your own light and take the time to read the Gospel of James. We will go around the room and share our reflections, hopes and maybe shine a little brighter.

Quakers Studying the Bible Sunday, December 16, 9a

Bible study is held each third Sunday at the Meeting House. The format includes analysis, commentary, and critical discussion of a

Every Sunday

- 9:45a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**—aged Friends exit the meetingroom. *Note: there is no formal First Day School programming in the summer.* Please be mindful of footfalls while upstairs, and consider removing your shoes.

selected passage one month, followed by personal and experiential reflection on the same passage the next month.

In November, the group began discussion of Galatians 5:14-25, "the Fruits of the Spirit". December's session will continue with personal reflections and experiential observations on this passage. There is no need to have attended the November session to participate in December's discussion—all are welcome!

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 16, during Meeting

Our own, special retelling of the birth of Jesus. Featuring our First Day Schoolers.

Christmas Supper Sunday, December 16, Rise of Meeting

Please bring a dish-to-pass and stay after meeting for worship for a substantial lunch.

Music Before Meeting Sunday, December 23, 9:45a

A casual gathering for singing before Meeting for Worship. We will use songbooks at the Meetinghouse. The temptation to sing Christmas music will be too strong to resist.

Dish-to-Pass and Christmas Cookie Decorating Sunday, December 23, 6p

Please join us at the Clarkberg home, 150 Giles Street, for some holiday fellowship. Bring a dish to share. Cookie dough, decorating goodies, and Christmas songbooks will be provided.

Christmas Eve Open House Monday, December 24, 6-11p

Please join Toni Murdough and Kirsten Marhsall for some Christmas Eve cheer at their annual open house, 520 North Tioga Street. Drop in anytime, we would love to see you. Questions? 273-9037

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, January 3, 5p

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

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 (227 N. Willard Way)
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts