



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

January 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:

Marin Clarkberg
607-279-4722 • clarkberg@cornell.edu

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 meeting-house, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meeting Friends in Our Region

We have the opportunity to take part in New York Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Discernment, which Ithaca Meeting will host on March 3, and also in Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting's Spring Gathering, the weekend of April 20-22, when we will be coordinating activities for all of the children. More will be coming in upcoming newsletters and announcements. For more information on either event, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke, 277-4183, bjm9@cornell.edu.

Meeting for Discernment

Meetings for Discernment are a time when Friends from all parts of the Yearly Meeting come together for extended worship to discern the presence and movement of God, Spirit, Light—in our hearts, in the lives of our meetings, and in the life of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. To encourage a broad presence from throughout

the Yearly Meeting, local meetings and worship groups name appointees from their meetings to attend, but Meetings for Discernment are open to all. Worship is held during morning and afternoon periods, with a break for lunch.

Meetings for Discernment offer Friends a time for deep reflection and spiritual connection and serve as a means for the Yearly Meeting to discern what is rising up among us that may not be apparent through our usual process of committees and attending to business.

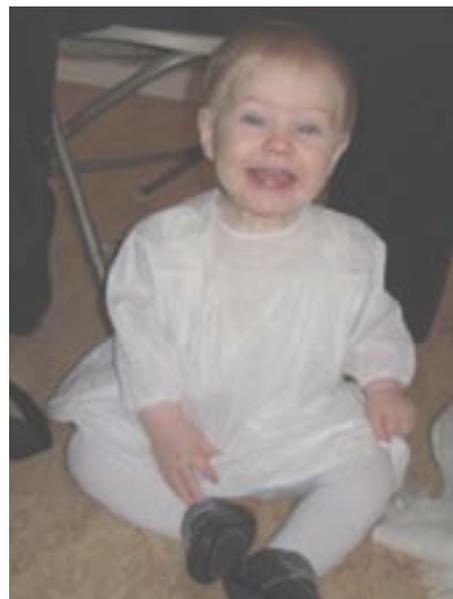
Spring Gathering

The Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting gets together three times a year, in the Winter, Spring, and Fall. Spring Gathering is a full weekend event, and is a wonderful time to get to know Friends in our region, and to explore our faith together. It is held at Long Point Camp, a Salvation Army property on the west side of Seneca Lake.

Responsibilities for Spring Gathering rotate amongst the Monthly Meetings, and this is our year to provide a program and activities for youth, infants through high school age. Many Ithaca Friends will be involved. It will be a great year to participate!

Friends Bike Clinic Wins Award

Our Friends Bike Clinic was honored this month by Sustainable Tompkins' "Signs of Sustainability" award. We are delighted to be in the company of organizations in Tompkins County working for energy efficiency, green building, responsible land use, and many other categories of goodness. For a full list of award-winners the visit the webpage at sustainabletompkins.org/signs-of-sustainability/annual-awards/.



Eleanor, preparing to star as Baby Jesus in the 2011 Christmas pageant, gets into character.

January in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

10 Years Ago (Jan. 13, 2002)

As part of the Annual Meeting, the Clerkship of IMM was transferred from Dick Crepeau to Beth Jolles. Twenty-nine persons heard annual reports of committees and approved an amended State of the Meeting report.

15 Years Ago (Jan. 9, 1997)

Jan Philpot transferred her membership from Newark, Delaware to IMM.

20 Years Ago (Jan. 13, 1992)

Steve Mohlke presented a description of the work he and Bronwyn were to be undertaking soon with the Heifer Project in Mexico. Because they would receive no salary, several organizations were being asked to sponsor their work. IMM agreed to a commitment of raising three month's support.

30 Years Ago (Jan. 11, 1982)

Nominating Committee presented an updated report and indicated that Frank Pineo had agreed to become Clerk.

45 Years Ago (Jan. 9, 1967)

Notice of the weekly anti-Vietnam War vigil and of the Meeting were sent to the local newspaper and radio station. A Selective Service Counseling Committee [including IMM members] was set up in the parish house of the Unitarian Church.

60 Years Ago (Jan. 14, 1962)

Edith Edgerton and Jean Klune reported that Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and AFSC recordings against Universal Military Training (UMT) were ruled to be political and could not be broadcast over local radio free of charge. IMM appropriated up to \$20 to have these recordings aired at appropriate times. Ed Cranch and Sam Lindley were chosen as a committee to write letters to the Ithaca Journal and New York Times on UMT.

80 Years Ago (Jan. 10, 1932)

In a brief Business Meeting, Joshua Cope, who was soon to take a Sabbatical leave to Europe, tendered his resignation as Clerk. Alfred Wray was appointed as his successor.

What Are You Reading?

I received a copy of *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz for Christmas. This book outlines four simple agreements that you make with yourself (and with the universe) that help a person live more spiritually and more fully. The idea is to separate from the negativity that we have absorbed, both in the messages we have absorbed and internalized, and in our way of being and doing. The book is short and easy to read.

From *The Four Agreements*:

"The First Agreement is be impeccable with your word. Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love....Now let us see what the word impeccability means. Impeccability means 'without sin.' Impeccable comes from the Latin *pecatus*, which means 'sin.' The *im* in Impeccable means 'without', so impeccable means 'without sin.'"

— Susan Wolf

Have you read a book lately that fostered your spiritual growth and that you would like to share with us? The IMM newsletter would welcome a description and short excerpt from the book and information about where it can be obtained. Please send submissions to Lynn at thetruames@gmail.com.

Talent Show in 2012?

The Program Committee is considering whether to try to hold the (usually) annual Talent Show sometime this March. In order for it to happen, volunteers will be needed to take on various tasks. Please contact Carolyn Kenyon clkenyon09@gmail.com, Lynn Truame thetruames@gmail.com, or Claudia Stoscheck if you are interested in helping to put the Talent Show together.

We will need: a person to organize it, an MC, someone responsible for set-up and any equipment needed, performers and artists, an art director, and people to clean up and close up the meeting house.

Thank you!



Mary and Joseph—or rather Rosie and Jasper—behold the baby Eleanor. (2011 Pageant)



Irena and Elsa shepherd joyfully. (2011 Pageant)

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 11, 2011

2011-12.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Worship with Attention to Business on December 11, 2012. At 12:25 PM, 14 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk then reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and noted that Ellie Rosenberg and Tonia Saxon would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk offered a reading from Stanley Hauerwas on Silence: as a way for God's people to be present; a way "not to let the darkness overwhelm us". After some further silent worship, we turned our attention to the day's business.

2011-12.2 Peace Witness Committee

Marjorie Baines presented the Committee's proposals for donating the rest of the budgeted funds (discretionary and pre-approved) under their care: \$120 each to Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) International; Friends' International Center in Ramallah, Palestine; two initiatives of the Friends' Peace Teams: the Great Lakes Initiative (East-Central Africa) and the Indonesia Initiative; Nonviolent Peaceforce; ProNica; and Ramallah Friends' School, for a total of \$840. Meeting APPROVED these donations. Peace Witness can provide information on these organizations to anyone interested in more detail. @

2011-12.3 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)

Larry Clarkberg brought the TSMC's proposals for two more elements of the Building Use Policy: a fee structure, and a decision-making process by which groups will or will not be approved to use the facility. The committee has been laboring to achieve a balance between use of the house for IMM's own programs and for building relationships in the larger community. Meeting APPROVED the fee structure and the decision-making process. These policies will be available to the public on the IMM website. @

2011-12.4 Nominating Committee

Nancy Gabriel presented the committee's nominations for IMM committee appointments for 2012. Some corrections were indicated, and the list included some unfilled positions which will be addressed in future business meetings. There are changes in several committees, and members of some committees still need to de-

cide how to stagger their terms to provide smooth rotations. With amendments included, Meeting APPROVED the list of nominees. @

2011-12.5 Finance Committee

1. Copies of the proposed budget for 2012 were distributed. Dick Crepeau and Mike Simkin reported on some changes from the draft budget which had been proposed in November, with clarifications as needed in response to Friends' questions.
2. We then turned our attention to issues still unresolved in the draft budget which was presented today. After discussion, Meeting APPROVED the 2012 budget with these adjustments: rental income for the Burt House was reduced to reflect the experience of the past few years; the amount to be set aside for repairs was increased due to updated valuations of the properties; and the amount to be donated to NYYM was increased by \$1,000.
3. Having reviewed our overall financial condition, the committee expects to be able to pay back \$60,000 (i.e. half) of the \$120,000 borrowed this year for the Third Street Meetinghouse. @

2011-12.6 Treasurer

The monthly financial report and a report specific to the Third Street Meetinghouse were distributed and are available from the Treasurer. @

2011-12.7 Other Concerns

A Friend expressed ongoing difficulty in following all the detail during reporting from Finance Committee and the Treasurer at the same meeting, and asked whether another way of reporting might be explored. The concern was referred to the Finance Committee. @

At 2:55 PM, 13 Friends settled into worship before adjourning the Meeting. We will gather again for Annual Meeting, and for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, on January 8, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 7. Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of misery and suffering. They are urged to support efforts to overcome racial, social, economic, and educational discrimination; to bear testimony against all forms of oppression; to exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives; and to work for the abolition of the death penalty.

Query 4. Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?

Two Invitations to Friends Coming in February

Quaker Women's Clothing Swap Saturday, February 11th, 2pm

Anyone who wears womens clothing (or teen girls clothing) is invited to clean our your closets and bring the stuff you don't want. Then you "shop" through everyone else's unwanted clothing to find some new treasures. This event will be at 2pm at Kris Altucher's house, 708 Mitchell Street. Feel free to bring snacks. For more information contact Kris Altucher or Melissa Travis Dunham (277-9599, mtravis823@yahoo.com).

Floating Meeting with Attention to Football Sunday, February 5th, 6pm

The annual Quaker Superbowl party at the home of Chris Dunham and Melissa Travis Dunham (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca). Come on over to watch the "Big Game" with F/friends, or ignore the game altogether and gather for non-sporting related fellowship, or engage in a conversation about the status and impact of professional sports in our society. We'll make pizza; feel free to bring other food or drinks to share. An RSVP by Friday Feb 3 is helpful, but not required.

January 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Corporation Sunday, January 8, Rise of Meeting

Called to order by Trustees, this is a brief gathering of the legal corporation known as Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Please sign in.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, January 8, Rise of Meeting

Directly following the meeting of the corporation, this is our annual meeting in which we share committee reports from 2011.

YFIR Weekend

Friday, January 13-Sunday, January 15

Young-Friends-in-Residence is hosting a weekend retreat for middle and high school-aged kids at Perry City Meetinghouse. Franklin Crump will be facilitating a weekend of AVP (the Alternative to Violence Program). For more information, contact Amy Willauer-Obermayer, aoberm2073@gmail.com.

Discussion: The State of the Meeting Sunday, January 15, 9am

Please join us for a discussion of the state of our Meeting in 2011 in preparation for a written report. This report will go on to other meetings in our region and in New York State. New York Yearly Meeting provided queries (see box, right) for us to consider.

Earthcare, Peace Witness & Social Justice Sunday, January 15, Rise of Meeting

This joint meeting of three committees will be held in the library.

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
- 10:45a Friends participating in **First Day School** exit the meetingroom. Please be mindful of footfalls while up-stairs, and consider removing your shoes.

Queries for the State of the Meeting Report

1. How does ministry thrive in our meetings? How do we identify and support the ministries rising among us? Do we communicate our faith with tenderness and honesty to each other, to our meetings, and to the larger world?
2. Every meeting carries part of the long legacy of Quaker faith and practice. What do we contribute to that legacy? Are we called to participate in non-Quaker movements that express or could use Quaker values?

Women's Fellowship

Friday, January 20th, 7p

Join in this informal gathering at Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street. Enjoy a hot beverage, dinner, and/or dessert!

Friends Bike Clinic

Sunday, January 22nd, 1p

Come see what our *award winning* (see page 1) clinic is all about.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, January 26th, 5p

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

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts
- Thurs 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse