



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2014

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

Assistant Clerk:

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778
mlr17@cornell.edu

Treasurer:

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

Ministry & Worship:

Chuck Mohler
607-539-6454 • clm11@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849
ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Shirley Way, Friend-in-Residence
shirleyway61@gmail.com • 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 message body 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

A Thank You Letter to the Ithaca Community

— by *Ambroise Ngayinoko Lumanikio*

I'm Ambroise Ngayinoko Lumanikio. I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). My parents were Angolan refugees who had lived in the DRC long before my birth. I have six brothers and one sister.

I'm in the U.S. as an asylum seeker, after having fled from the DRC to Angola and then to the U.S. in April 2011. When I arrived in the US, I did not speak English, but was fluent in French, so I sought asylum in Canada. Instead, I was turned over to U.S. immigration agents and ended up in an immigration detention center in Batavia, NY. I spent almost thirty months in the detention center, where I started learning English, as well as Spanish.

During my detention, I kept contacting people outside by sending letters and telephoning as well. As a result, I made connections in this wonderful Ithaca community. I'm especially grateful to the Ithaca Chapter Group 73 of Amnesty International and to the First Baptist Church which assisted me before, during and after my release.

I feel lucky to be part of this great community. I have loving connections with Catholic Charities, the BOCES ESL adult program, the Living Hope Fellowship and the Catholic Worker Group.

Finally I express my sincere appreciation to the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for their concerns and care for me, including currently housing me at the Burt House. In June, I was glad to join the Quakers for worship one Sunday.

Supporting Ambroise

The Working Group for Immigrant Support and the Burt House residents have been enjoying getting to know Ambroise Ngayinoko Lumanikio, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo who has been living at the Burt House since late May. We all have found Ambroise to be very engaging and very resourceful. His is an amazing story, which we hope he will have an opportunity to tell in the coming months.

Now, while he is awaiting word on a work permit, he is volunteering at Loaves & Fishes and at the public library. He is also studying ESL through BOCES, and hopes to take courses at TC3 in the near future.

The Meeting is supporting Ambroise in a number of ways, much as we have helped refugees from Burma and Iraq in the past, including housing, logistical support, friendship and the Refugee Assistance Fund. The Working Group will be bringing a request to the

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Ambrose, continued on page 2

July business meeting asking that a collection basket be set out one Sunday a month to augment this fund.

We are also putting out a “wish list” for the following items:

- math books that cover geometry, algebra, and other math tested on college entrance exams (recent high school text books, SAT prep books, etc);
- a “hub” so he can have more than one USB port on his tablet computer;
- better yet, an actual laptop computer.

If you can help or have questions, please contact Margaret McCasland (216-1091) or Garry Thomas (273-7567). Thanks,

— *Margaret McCasland*

Michael Norton Yarrow

Michael Norton Yarrow (Mike), a much loved sociology professor and organizer for peace and justice, died June 2, 2014, age 74. Mike grew up in southern California and Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. After graduating in sociology from Antioch College in Ohio, he completed alternative service to the draft organizing for peace with the American Friends Service Committee. In the summer of 1964 he registered voters in Mississippi with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee’s Freedom Summer. While earning a master’s degree in sociology at Cornell University he married Ruth Morris, a marriage that lasted 48 years until his death. His doctoral thesis from Rutgers University focused on how Appalachian coal miners understood the issues affecting their lives. He taught sociology at Ithaca College in upstate NY for 18 years where he and Ruth raised their family. There he was active in efforts for a livable wage and ending the nuclear arms race. In 1997 he and Ruth moved to Seattle, lured by their love of mountain backpacking. Here he worked as an organizer for peace and justice, especially at the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation where he launched the Peace Activist Trainee program that has graduated over 90 high school students. Mike was an active member of University Friends Meeting (Quakers), and a board member of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, of the pro-soldier anti-war center Coffee Strong, and of the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund. He enjoyed singing with the Seattle Labor Chorus, working with a group for a just sustainable economy, and adventuring with friends and family with rafts, canoes and backpacks in the wilderness. He was dearly loved for his thoughtful activism and leadership for peace and justice, his warmth and humor. He is survived by his wife Ruth Yarrow, son Matthew Yarrow, daughter Delia Yarrow, and brother Douglas Yarrow, their spouses, and a loving extended family.

— *Published in The Seattle Times from June 12 to June 13, 2014*

We’re Hosting the Northside Community Celebration, July 26th!

This is turning out to be quite a fun-filled family event for the whole neighborhood featuring live music in the parking lot and food.

We are looking for Friends to help with these tasks and more:

- Bake cookies
- Make popcorn to give away
- Cut and serve watermelon
- Set-up tables and pop-up tents Saturday morning
- Pick up a food donation from a nearby restaurant
- Clean-up
- Lead a children’s activity

If you are willing and able to help, please contact Karen Friedeborn at Karen.friedeborn@gmail.com or (607) 280-5208.

July in IMM History

Note: Often in the past there has been no IMM Meeting for Business in July and August.

10 Years Ago (July 11, 2004)

Based on the statement he prepared, IMM recognized Nathan Mallison as a conscientious objector to war. [Note: Nathan’s statement and that of its recognition by IMM remains on file. This procedure is still available to young adults who might wish to pursue it.]

30 Years Ago (July 9, 1984)

IMM approved the ad hoc Sanctuary Committee’s declaration of readiness to welcome a single refugee or childless couple, and to notify the other five Meetings in New York who are participating in sanctuary as a means of strengthening the bond between these Meetings. Expressions of support have been received from seven or eight groups in Ithaca. A joint potluck supper and film on sanctuary was planned soon with the First Baptist Church. Also at a recent meeting, the Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church published an action endorsing sanctuary.

55 Years Ago (July 13, 1959 plus two subsequently called Meetings in July)

In response to a letter from the Wilton, NY Meeting, with further discussions planned at Yearly Meeting, IMM labored unsuccessfully to develop a wording of how the Meeting felt about the Quaker peace testimony. Although viewpoints recorded in the minutes show no sense of approval of armed conflict, two factors especially seemed to weigh against a statement the entire Meeting was comfortable with: (1) the sense of the supremacy of individual conscience, and (2) the timing of trying to arrive at such a decision in the summer when many Friends were away.

— *Tom Brown, IMM historian*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, June 8, 2014

Meeting Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Nancy Gabriel & Susan Ruff
(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Clerk or recording Clerk.)

2014 6.01 Opening

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 8, 2014. At 12:17 PM, 25 Friends gathered in open worship.

“May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.”

Holding us in the Light were Nancy Gabriel, Ed Lisbe, Nancy Riffer and from afar, many more.

Reading:

In the evolution of civilized religion love has become more and more emphasized as the supreme virtue in both God and man, and the psychotherapeutic view of man seems to converge on the conviction that love is the core of a mature personality. We may notice also the strong tendency in any social group to split apart under the impact of personal clashes with their effervescent tensions, but that any such group is likely to hold together if its members seriously practice the principal: “Love one another.” Wherever love really becomes the supreme emotion, greater than any motive that might oppose it, the inevitable conflicts that arise in any human interaction are on the way to being reconciled in a spirit of unity. True love is reliably loving.

Observe the men and women who most fully exemplify love. Do they not show a steadfast concern for the enduring welfare of those loved – a concern that their needs be dependably met and their aspirations fulfilled? Augustine once said, “Love, and do what you will.” Clearly that is a true insight only if this kind of love is meant: otherwise it is dangerous. A fond parent may by overprotection fail to prepare his child for the realities of life, and a doctrinaire zealot may feel that he loves others when exhorting them to sell their property and wait on a hilltop for the Second Coming of Jesus. Only through a constant readiness to become aware of one’s errors will such a feeling be changed so as to guide action wisely. Hence a more trustworthy maxim is: Love, and learn to love better.

— Light, Love and Life, *Edwin A. Burt*

2014 6.02 Ministry And Worship Report

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has received a request of transfer of membership from Abington Monthly Meeting for Annalisa Raymer and John Lewis . The committee approved the transfer.

We received the report from Ministry and Worship. @

2014 6.03 Treasurer’s Report

Our income is better so far this year. Friends received the Treasurer’s report. @

2014 6.04 Burt House (Queries)

Clerk read background material from the agenda regarding the Burt House (distributed via listserv and available from the recording clerk).

Following a lengthy and profoundly care-filled discussion that looked at the history of the Burt House, its current uses, and the visionary potential for the Meeting’s future, a small group of people (Antonia Saxon, Fell Cadwallader, Nancy Hillegas, Alexa Yesukevich, and Marilyn Ray) will meet again to plan the next steps. Deep gratitude was expressed for the peaceful place we moved to together today. We let go and let the Spirit work. @

2014 6.05 Closing

Twenty-three people entered into silence at 1:50 pm. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on July 13, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ruff, Recording Clerk



Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Fridays

The women's chair yoga group will continue to meet on Mondays and Fridays from 11-noon through July and August. There may be some changes, however, when too many people are away; so if you are not already on the e-mail list for yoga but would like to try it, please check with Nancy Gabriel, ntg2@cornell.edu. Even an occasional session renews us.

Supporting Hospice through Women Swimmin'

On August 9th, scores of women will be swimming the 1.2 miles across Cayuga Lake as a fundraiser for Hospicare. This is a beautiful event, and is an important part of how our Hospicare facility can provide hospice services to anyone without regard for their ability to pay.

I feel so blessed that I am able to be a part of the group of women who will make this swim.

I invite Friends to support Hospicare by sponsoring me—and/or someone else. Go to www.womenswimmin.org and click on the "Support a participant" button!

—Marin Clarkberg

July 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

Join in the Quaker decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday.

Brunch Sunday, July 27, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to stay for fellowship and a bite to eat after the rise of meeting. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share with others.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 31, 5p

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

Note:

New York Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay, the annual gathering of New York State Quakers held in the Adirondacks, will be July 20-26th.

Every Sunday

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at Hector Meetinghouse .
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School and/or childcare:** attenders exit the meetingroom at Third Street Meetinghouse.

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 Burtt 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
- Sun 1-3p **Friends Bike Clinic** on the meetinghouse deck