



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

June 2014

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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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

Discussion on Centering Down

On Sunday, June 22, at 9 am and following up at 12 noon, Anne Pomeroy and Ed Seliger (Noah's parents) will lead us in an exploration of centering:

- Have you ever wondered what people do during meeting for worship?
- Have you wondered if you were doing it "right"?

This will be a time to share our experiences of being in meeting for worship and explore several techniques for settling, centering, or deepening.

Our discussion will take place in two parts. We will meet before Meeting for Worship, at 9 am, to share different ways that people center themselves. After the rise of Meeting, we will meet again to share our experiences that arose from trying a new approach to being in Meeting.

Anne and Ed wrote an article on Centering Down for the March, 2014 issue of *Spark*. In part, they wrote:

One's experience of worship is directly related to how centered one is in that worship. Centering down is an essential part of the process because it is how we find the still point, the balance point, how we still all the internal chatter and make an opening to hear what God has to say. (See nyym.org for full text.)

Join us to explore what we do in the silence in Meeting.

— Nancy Riffer, for the Program Committee

Celebration at the Third Street Meetinghouse

The Ad Hoc Neighborhood Outreach Committee is happy to report that the first annual Northside Community Celebration is shaping up to be a fun-filled neighborhood event... right here at our Third Street Meetinghouse parking lot and meeting house! It will feature live music and food!

Please mark your calendars for July 26th, 3-6 pm.

We hope this event will be an opportunity to work with neighbors, build community and begin knitting ourselves into the neighborhood.

If you are looking for an opportunity to roll up your sleeves and work with Friends and neighbors this may be your opportunity! We need your help! Planning meetings will be Mondays, June 2nd, 16th and 30th from 5:30-6:30pm. A light dinner will be served.

Please come to the meeting and bring a neighborhood acquaintance. Can't come to the meeting but are willing to help or offer food? Please contact Carolyn Kenyon via email clkenyon09@gmail.com or phone 273-7922.

— Ad Hoc Neighborhood Outreach Committee

Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse

Starting Sunday, June 1, the Hector Meetinghouse (5066 Perry City Road) will be open for the summer for Meeting for Worship. The Hector Meetinghouse is a beautiful old Quaker meetinghouse (down the road from Perry City Meetinghouse) without electricity or other modern conveniences. Parking is along the northside of Perry City Road.

Please note the earlier starting time of 10:00am. Ministry & Worship established this time last summer to allow those worshipping at Hector time to get to the Third Street Meetinghouse on Sundays when there is a Meeting for Business. The 10:00am starting time at Hector also worked well for committees who wished to meet after the rise of Meeting at Third Street, some of whose members may have worshipped at Hector. Thus, the 10:00am starting time for Meeting for Worship at Hector will continue this summer.

— *Tom Brown*

Workday at the Burt House

Owned and operated by our Meeting as a residential community, space for sojourners and event space, the Burt House is a large residence just northwest of Cornell's campus at 227 Willard Way.

Friends are invited to come for our spring clean-up and help with such tasks as removing storm windows, washing windows, gardening and other such tasks. Come at 10am (or earlier!) and stay as long as you can. We've got work! With great appreciation,

— *Shirley Way, Friend-in-Residence*

Remember Families in Need

Last Friday I attended the Food Bank Annual Meeting. I was excited to hear how hard everyone works and how different our pantry and meal programs are in our six county area. Efforts ranged from big operations with their own trucks to a little pantry held in a park with no perishable food storage until a shed can be built and a refrigerator purchased. (This little pantry has to be careful not to over-advertise so they don't get overwhelmed.)

Literally *millions* of pounds of food are being distributed to friends and neighbors in need at over 160 pantries. I'm always stimulated by these meetings. Friends should know how much their generosity is appreciated by families in need.

— *Ginny Gartlein*

Berry Brunch Supports Healthy Food For All

Saturday, June 21st is the annual Kestrel Perch Summer Berry Brunch. This festive (but not elegant) meal is a fundraiser for Healthy Food For All, which supports CSA shares for low-income families and individuals in and around Tompkins County. Don't hesitate to bring the family. Reservations are required; full details and ticket sales are available at: <http://www.healthyfoodforall.org/berrybrunch.htm> There will be three sittings: 9, 10:45, and noon. The brunch will be held at the Song Common House at Ecovillage.

— *Susan Wolf*

June in IMM History

5 Years Ago (June 14, 2009)

A new charge for the Publicity Committee was approved.

A proposal by the ad hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support for continuation of collections of donations on the third Sunday of each month was approved. A proposal that our Publicity Committee contact other Meetings in the Region and encourage work with immigration support programs was approved.

Susan Wolf's request for membership transfer from Staten Island Executive Meeting to IMM was approved and she was welcomed.

10 Years Ago (June 13, 2004)

IMM approved a six-part minute presented by Marilyn Ray that outlined a procedure by which IMM young people participating in the Out of the Nest program can prepare a statement and a file indicating their opposition to war, working with a CO counselor from Meeting, and have their file become an IMM minute and thus part of Meeting records.

15 Years Ago (June 14, 1999)

Ministry & Oversight [now Ministry & Workshop] clarified its role in the "Out of the Nest and into the World" program: CALM will be responsible for the program, and M&O will help with choosing mentors and Clearness Committees for the young people. M&O approved Janis Kelly as mentor for Kyrie Murdough. Friends expressed concerns about the service projects: that care be taken to include parents and guardians; that local projects be encouraged as well as more distant ones; and that the ambitions for a service project be considered according to the young individual's skills, resources, and experience.

35 Years Ago (June 11, 1979)

IMM accepted the bequest from the estate of Theodore Oliver of his home at 238 Linden Avenue near Collegetown, appraised then at \$52,000. Trustees were instructed to prepare to sell the property, with the funds to go into a building fund for the Meeting. [Historian's note: A worship group started by Sarah Oliver's parents, Edward and Marianna Wood in 1912 in this home, later evolved into Ithaca Monthly Meeting. By about 1915, the worship group began meeting in Barnes Hall at Cornell. Graves for both the Woods and Olivers are in the cemetery behind the Hector Meeting House.]

65 YEARS AGO (June 6, 1949)

A committee of Ithaca Friends, working with Cornell admissions, chose a German student, Gunther Wicke of Stuttgart, to come to Cornell for a year of schooling under sponsorship of the Meeting.

— *Tom Brown, IMM historian*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, May 11, 2014

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Sue Ruff, and Nancy Gabriel

(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.)

2014 05.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 11, 2014. At 12:10 pm, 17 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship. The clerk acknowledged Nancy Gabriel who was holding the meeting in the Light.

Clerk read a poem by Judy Brust, as quoted in Jan Hoffman's *Growing in Faith* (see inset, right).

2014 05.2 Peace Witness Committee Report. Susan Wolfe reported that Peace Witness Committee applied for, and received a YM Witness Coordinating Committee Witness Activities Grant to present a workshop, Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change, at the Meetinghouse on Friday, June 20th. Peace Witness Committee asked that Meeting support the workshop by organizing a potluck supper; that Meeting stand with the spirit of the workshop; and that a Friend hold the workshop coordinator, Paula Palmer, in the Light during the workshop. Friends approved the proposal. A sign-up sheet will be available at meetings for worship between now and the date of the workshop. @

2014 05.3 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee Report. Gina Varrichio reported on behalf of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee:

1. At the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting adopted a policy for a period of six months regarding meetinghouse rentals. The policy involves voluntary contributions instead of fixed rental fees. The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee requested that the policy be extended for another three months in order to better assess the impact. Meeting approved the request. @
2. The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee reported on previously unforeseen costs associated with maintaining an elevator in the Meetinghouse. The City of Ithaca requires such devices to be covered by a maintenance contract. These contracts involve an annual cost of roughly \$500 and do not cover major repairs. In addition, two inspections of the elevator are required each year at a total cost of roughly \$400. At present, the TSMC repair fund can cover these costs, but

Refiner's Fire,
who comes to our relationships,
may we open ourselves to You.

As You burn through our dross,
we will become merciful to one
another.

Give us the hope of new
understanding,
and forgive us our defensiveness
as we forgive those who seem to be
against us.

Do not forsake us in our separated
state,
but do remove even the appearance
of duplicity;
for your realm is in Truth,
your power in compassion,
and your glory in renewed life.

this may not sustainable in the long term. The TSMC is working to make sure the elevator is in compliance with all code requirements. Friends received the report, and inquired if there may be still further financial impacts, such as on our insurance premiums. Trustees and the TSMC will work to identify answers to the questions.

Meeting previously embraced the gift of the elevator and enthusiastically approved the construction project, but this was done without full knowledge of the ongoing costs associated with the elevator.

The TSMC will continue moving forward with the contractor on the installation without additional decisions from Monthly Meeting, and also will return to Monthly Meeting with a proposal for funding ongoing maintenance. @

2014 05.4 Working Group for Immigrant Support. Elizabeth Schneider reported for the working group for immigrant support. As described in a written report, the

Working Group has established a relationship with Ambrose Lumanikio, a man in his mid-20s from Democratic Republic of the Congo seeking refugee status.

The meeting approved the following minute:

For a period of two months, no rent shall be charged to Ambrose Lumanikio to stay at the Burt House. If, at the end of two months, the Burt House Committee, the Immigrant Support Committee, and Ambrose Lumanikio find it mutually agreeable, this agreement may be extended.

The Meeting is asked to look attentively for opportunities to support Ambrose more generally. @

2014 05.5 Treasure's Report. Mike Simkin reported that financial activities are generally consistent with past experiences. In this fifth month of the year, the general fund has received about 26% of the annual request; this is somewhat ahead of this time of the year last year. The negative balance on the meetinghouse fund is diminishing, and the Treasurer considers us to be in good financial health. Friends received the report. @

2014 05.6 Other concerns. One Friend shared that he took part in the Greek Orthodox Church dinner, which is a well-attended fundraising event. Friends might consider options for a similar event. @

Fifteen Friends settled into worship at 1:35 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on June 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Fridays

Chair yoga will continue through May and June, and welcomes friends new to yoga. We focus on women's health as well as general body-mind-spirit health. Consider joining us Mondays and Fridays at Third Street Meetinghouse, 11a.m. to noon. For more information, please contact Nancy Gabriel at 277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu.

African Jackets and Other Items for Sale

Beautiful African jackets and other handmade items offered for sale: Jean Smith, a long-time member of New York Yearly Meeting and a current resident of Kaimosi, Kenya will be visiting Ithaca Monthly Meeting on Sunday June 8th. She will have with her jackets and other items sewed by widows of Kaimosi. This project supports these women who have lost their husbands to AIDS.

— Susan Wolf

Leo Mohlke's Bassoon Recital

Our own Leo Mohlke will be giving a recital on Saturday, June 21, at 7:15 at Kendal. All Friends are welcome.

— Bronwyn Mohlke

Hamlet Performance at the Third Street Playhouse

The Resurrection of Hamlet: A Solo Performance by Alfred Hopkins will be presented on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at our very own Third Street Meetinghouse. Admission is free.

Actor, director and narrator, Hopkins reenacts the story of a prince whose father was murdered. In his tormented attempt to seek revenge and filled with doubt, he moves in and out of the characters and conflicts in Shakespeare's timeless play. Hopkins' solo performance of Hamlet has been presented at numerous theaters, schools and cultural institutions in Buenos Aires, the provinces and Cuba.

— Barbara Barry

June 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Peace Witness Committee

Saturday, June 7, 2p

All are welcome to join us at the Burt House, 227 Willard Way.

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

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

Burt House Work Day Saturday, June 14, 10a

Please come at 10am (or earlier) and stay as long as you can for this spring clean up day.

"Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change" Workshop Friday, June 20th, 7-9p

This interactive workshop relating the rights of indigenous peoples provides great insight and has a powerful impact on the participants. Spaces are filling up quickly, and pre-registration is required. We are asking a \$10 donation, but no one should stay away if cost

is a concern. Please contact Susan Wolf if you want to participate in the workshop, if you would like to be a reader (we will need two), or if you are able to contribute to the potluck: QuakerWolf@gmail.com or 272-1618.

Discussion on Centering Down Sunday, June 22, 9a and at noon

Have you ever wondered what people do during meeting for worship? Join in this two-part discussion. See page 1 for more information.

Brunch Sunday, June 22, 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, June 26, 5p

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

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