



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 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

An Introduction to Ithaca Monthly Meeting's Finances

Ithaca Monthly Meeting doesn't talk about money very much. Each year we send out a single fundraising appeal, and people donate as they are led. Yet managing the Meeting's money with honesty and transparency is part of Friends' testimonies. This article is a short introduction to the Meeting's finances.

Almost all of the Meeting's funds come from the donations of members and attenders. We receive no grants or outside assistance. We make some money from building rental, both at the Third Street Meetinghouse and at the Burt House. The rental income contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings but does not cover those costs completely. We maintain a fund for each property with amounts added to it yearly in anticipation of large expenses.

As an organization, we operate frugally. Most churches and congregations have regular paid employees whose salaries often consume the largest chunk of the church's budget. We have no employees. We clean and maintain our own building, handle building rentals, teach and administer First Day School classes, provide adult programming, and pay the bills entirely on a volunteer basis. Our only supplemental expenses are for snow removal, childcare as needed, and supplemental cleaning at the Burt House.

"Meeting Finances", continued on page 2

Report on Meeting Retreat: Living our Faith

More than thirty members and attenders participated in our six-hour Meeting Retreat focused on "Living Our Faith through the Third Street Meeting House." Laura Branca of Training for Change Associates effectively facilitated the wide-ranging and interactive discussion—enriched by tasty snacks and lunch brought by Friends and organized by Holly White.

As intended, this was an "envisioning" session, with no decisions expected or made. As background, we heard a brief history of the Meeting's decades-long consideration of moving from rented space on the Cornell campus into a permanent home in a new or reconditioned building elsewhere. Several Friends said that the recent move into the Third Street Meeting House has already enriched the quality of relationships within our Monthly Meeting and promises to be a major turning-point in our history—particularly in relationship to outside groups and communities.

Breaking into four groups, we studied a map and demographic data of the surrounding neighborhood, and a list of outside organizations that have used the Third Street Meeting House over the last two years. Then we "brainstormed" verbally and graphically about possible opportunities for expanding our vision, as well as potential problems therein. Tension was sometimes expressed between saying "yes" to those opportunities and the limits to members' personal energy and time, as well as the increased financial costs of maintaining the Meeting House when more widely used.

"Retreat", continued on page 3

Friends have traditionally been cautious about taking on debt. At present, the Meeting has no debt. When we renovated the Third Street building, we held a special fundraising appeal and took on several loans from within the Meeting. Those loans have been repaid.

Who decides how our money is spent? We do, together. Our Finance Committee, using guidance from all the other committees, makes a budget each year. We meet in worship to consider the Meeting's business once a month. Anyone may attend. Among other business, matters that require large expenditures are presented. The Meeting as a body must approve the spending. Anyone can look at the Treasurer's report; it is sent monthly to those who express interest in receiving it.

Members and attenders have been accustomed to donating once a year, often at the end of the year. This makes the Treasurer's job more challenging, as he must shuffle funds around to pay bills during the early part of the year. It also makes the final weeks of December a little suspenseful. The monthly donation option (see form, right) has helped ameliorate the imbalance as more people sign up to donate this way. The Finance Committee is responsible for reconciling the Meeting's expenses with our donations. The discrepancy between the two is generally small, but the past five years have seen more shortfalls.

Managing the Meeting's financial resources with integrity is not incidental. It is central to Friends' understanding of walking in the Light.

Further questions? Email clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

— *Antonia Saxon*

Giving to IMM

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form on the below 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.

AUTHORIZATION FORM			
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc. ES14909			
Your name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Email address:			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>I would like to make the following contribution(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____ \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Date of first contribution: ___/___/___</p> <p>Frequency of contribution (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1st and 15th</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th</p> </div> </div>			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 2px;">CHECKING / SAVINGS</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><i>Complete this section if using your checking or savings account</i></td> </tr> </table>		CHECKING / SAVINGS	<i>Complete this section if using your checking or savings account</i>
CHECKING / SAVINGS	<i>Complete this section if using your checking or savings account</i>		
Please debit my (check one):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip			
Routing #:	Account #:		
<i>Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3</i>			
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: / /			

Worship at Hector

Ministry and Worship committee announces that during the warmer weather Meeting for Worship will be held on First Days at the Hector Meetinghouse, starting at 10am, as well as at Third St at the regular time of 10:30am. The date of the first meeting at Hector is not yet set, but will be announced on the listserv and after Meeting.

Request for Donations to Childcare Fund

Recently our Treasurer, Mike Simkin, sent out a request for donations to the childcare fund. As a member of a family who has benefited from the childcare provided by meeting in recent years, I want to express how grateful I am for this support. Most meeting events outside of Meeting for Worship, such as morning discussions and Grist groups, would be impossible for us to attend if there weren't a space for our preschooler nearby. We feel fortunate to be part of a truly inter-generational community and hope this form of family support can continue.

— *Emily Williams*

“Retreat”, continued from page 1

Program Committee members believe that the Retreat revealed a strong commitment on the part of the participants to get to know our neighbors in the community and to learn if we can be of service to them and to the wider Ithaca area generally. We encourage individual Friends as well as relevant Meeting Committees to explore their leadings and follow up as appropriate—understanding that significant changes in Meeting policies or major new directions will need to be considered and agreed upon in Meeting for Worship for Business.

Following is a summary of highlights and ideas from retreat discussions prepared by Antonia Saxon in consultation with the (grateful) Program Committee.

Themes that emerged from the retreat

- Laura asked, “Who joins whom—and why?” When we join other groups instead of expecting them to join us, we are the learners. “Blurring the lines” between IMM and other groups is good.
- We would rather not do things for people; we would rather do things with people.
- We want the Meetinghouse to be a welcoming shelter.
- We think of the Meetinghouse as a seedbed where people are supported in their leadings, empowered to act, and where they connect with others as well as with Spirit.
- We should “grow the Center of what we are.”
- We want to be an intersection where people from all parts of the community can come together.
- Our worship is different from other neighborhood churches: no singing, sitting in silence. Yet the inner process is similar.
- There may not be a clear line between worship and “outside” gatherings; worship is one expression of faith, and community work is another.
- There was a strong feeling that this was not about proselytizing. We are not doing what we’re doing in an effort to get more people to become Quakers. (Though we’re happy if people want to learn more.)

Ideas generated at the retreat

Easy, do-right-now things

- Talk to people you meet around the meetinghouse.
- Find ways to connect in a casual way. Twelve Tribes gives a cup of coffee to anyone who knocks at the door.
- Invite neighbors to meeting activities.
- Sharing food helps bring people together. Jim Grant wants to bake bread and give it away.
- Make sure Friends know what neighborhood activities are going on in the meetinghouse and how to become involved.

Ideas requiring a little more time and planning

- Have regularly updated signs on the outside of the building that are easy to read and that tell people what’s going on inside.
- Put more stuff on our walls that says what we’re about.

- Produce a monthly flyer for various activities: July Neighborhood Celebration, bike clinics, bread giveaway, Family Math, etc.
- Restart “Quaker 8s” and figure out how to invite Meetinghouse neighbors as well as Friends.
- Educate ourselves about cultural norms.
- Develop a fuller understanding of the needs of the neighborhood and how we might work with them. Ask people what they need.
- Plan an open house.
- Hold more events for children in the meetinghouse.
- Hold more neighborhood celebrations; co-sponsor them with other groups and other people in the community.

Long-range ideas requiring a lot of time and a lot of planning

- Start a food pantry/find out if there already is one.
- Start a “shower ministry”; access to restrooms, bathing, laundry facilities.
- Start a bail fund.
- Become a Friends Center.

Specific leadings

- Phoebe has a leading for the Brothers and Sons initiative.
- Barbara wants to integrate criminal justice work into IMM.
- Laurence: bike clinic, Family Math

Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change Workshop

Peace Witness Committee applied for, and received, a YM Witness Coordinating Committee Witness Activities Grant to bring the workshop *Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change* to the meetinghouse. The workshop will take place on Friday, June 20th, from 7-9p, and it will be open to the community. The minimum number of participants will be 15, and the maximum number 60. Paula Palmer, workshop presenter, describes the background for the workshop:

At the Boulder Colorado Quaker meeting, the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee (IPCC) responded to the call from Indigenous and religious leaders by undertaking a study of the Doctrine of Discovery and of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration, approved by the UN General Assembly in 2007, is an antidote to the Doctrine of Discovery because it defines Indigenous Peoples’ inalienable rights, which the Doctrine of Discovery systematically violates. Boulder’s IPCC asked itself, “How can we help educate Friends and other faith communities about these issues and encourage them to answer the call to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and support implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?”

With the guidance and encouragement of Native American educators, we developed a 2-hour participatory workshop and a Resource Kit. [...]

At the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in May,

“Roots of Injustice”, continued on page 4

Peace Witness Committee will be asking the Meeting to consider becoming involved in these ways:

1. The meetinghouse is already committed to hosting this workshop.
2. Peace Witness asks if the Meeting can sponsor the workshop. This would mean that the Meeting would provide a potluck dinner on the evening of the workshop, and assist with clean-up after the meal.
3. We ask the Meeting to endorse the workshop: to stand with the spirit of this workshop.
4. We ask the Meeting to consider taking a more active role in standing with Native people and in walking on the path to a right relationship.

— Susan Wolf



Throwback Sunday: Power Lasers Maisy, Thea, Irena, Dillon and Elsa visit Anabel Taylor Hall and reminisce on times gone by.

May in IMM History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (May 3, 2009)

The Clearness Committee for Emily Williams and Alexa Yesukevitch (consisting of Rini [Marin] Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa, Nancy Gabriel, and Steve Mohlke) found the couple clear to be married under the care of IMM. The recommendation that the marriage go forward under the care of IMM was approved.

15 Years Ago (May 10, 1999)

A finished IMM website was presented, incorporating suggestions that had been received.

20 Years Ago (May 9, 1994)

IMM approved a minute condemning the continued funding of the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

30 Years Ago (May 14, 1984)

An ad hoc committee on Sanctuary was approved by IMM. Accompanying the IMM minutes of this period was an article in CNY Focus (published in Syracuse) with the byline "Churches take part in a new underground railroad" and a story of a Salvadoran refugee who was provided sanctuary by a church in Chicago.

75 Years Ago (May 7, 1939)

Plans were made for the last Meeting of the year, to be held at the Arnot Forest. Cars start from Barnes Hall at 3:00pm, each family carrying its own lunch. Elmira Friends are invited to meet with us. [During these years there were no Meetings during the summer.]

80 Years Ago (May 1, 1934)

[Presented here to portray early IMM annual meetings] The Annual Meeting of the Ithaca Association of Friends was held, preceded by a dinner at the Forest Home Inn. Edith Cope, as Chairman of the Program Committee, presided. She turned the Meeting over to Alfred Wray, Clerk. After a brief period of silence, we proceeded with business: a summary of the year's activities was read. Appointments for the coming year (Clerk, Treasurer, Program Committee) were made. After the reading of the queries, the Meeting was turned back to Edith Cope, who introduced out-of-town guests and the speaker for the evening, Karlin Kapper-Johnson of Syracuse University. His topic: "Friends and World Problems." A difficult subject ably presented. [Notes: IMM used a fiscal year ending in May until 1981 to more closely reflect the campus calendar.) This general format of an evening annual meeting preceded by a dinner, and with a guest speaker after brief committee reports, continued through the mid-1960s.]

85 Years Ago (May 9, 1929)

David Pinnock was appointed our representative to the Religious Group Committee of the United Christian Work at Cornell. Note: This organization was the forerunner of Cornell United Religious Work (CURW). IMM has a long history of outreach to college students who are Quakers or are interested in learning more about Quakers. Young Friends, a registered Cornell student organization, has been the primary means for this outreach over the decades.

— Tom Brown, IMM historian

Things Once Lost Should Now Be Found

Friends, clothing is overflowing from the “lost and found” basket under the coat rack, and several pans and dishes are waiting in the kitchen to be reclaimed by their generous owners. Also, there’s a note on the fridge door asking if anyone took home a bowl by mistake from the January potluck. Please pass through the kitchen & check if you think you know about any of these misplaced things. And stop by the coat rack and see if you might have overlooked leaving something behind.

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 St Meetinghouse, 11a.m. to noon. For more information, please contact Nancy Gabriel at 277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu.



Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 13, 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 04.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 13, 2014. At 12:30 pm, 14 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship. The clerk acknowledged Steve Mohlke who was holding the meeting in the Light.

Clerk read from Nicholas Wolterstorff, *The Grace That Shaped My Life*:

I must mention especially my Aunt Trena, one of the most wonderful women I have known. ... One Saturday afternoon I walked into her house and heard the Metropolitan Opera playing on her radio; to me as a young teenager it was caterwauling. So I asked her why she was listening to that. Her answer remains for me a marvel and a parable: “Nick, that’s my window onto the world.” She had never gone to

Garden Thoughts and Needs

Spring really has decided to come, though we’ll still have cold and frosts. And I need some thoughts from Meeting members as to how to proceed this spring and summer. Pat Pingel is still away and due back in early June. But, she is on the Ecovillage landscape committee for the area just completed and also needs time to develop her own garden there. My plans include being in Scotland from July through to November. You can see the problem already!

I was approached about the possibility of planting butterfly and bee gardens at all three properties. I honestly said “no” to Hector and the Burt House. It certainly would be possible to do so at Third Street. What we’d need is a raised bed where the barrels currently are (our sunniest spot), amending the top soil that has turned to cement, ordering the plant material, planting and watering for the summer. I can order plants from Prairie Moon Nursery who specialize in butterfly and bee attracting plants. They are inexpensive (small but healthy), and come 32 plants per flat. One flat would give us a good start.

What I can’t do is the heavy work! So I would have to count on help from you.

If I can get enough people with strong backs, carpentry skills, and time, I think a butterfly garden would be sweet. Another thing I need to know is whether or not having herbs available and tomatoes is a wish. And the final subject is the ivy. I realize it’s a “tender” subject, but, regardless of a final outcome, it desperately needs trimming.

Please let me know your thoughts and availability. Email is the best route! Fingers crossed,

— Nancy Hillegas

school beyond the fifth grade; she was then trying to finish high school by correspondence.

Reverence for wood and for art in my father; reverence for the land and the animals in my uncles, sometimes even for machinery; longing reverence for music in my aunt; reverence for the life of the intellect in everybody. In the tenth book of his Confessions, Augustine imagines the things of the world speaking, saying to him: Do not attend to us, turn away, attend to God. I was taught instead to hear the things of the world saying: Reverence us; for God made us as a gift for you. Accept us in gratitude.

2014 04.2 Ministry and Worship.

1. Nancy Riffer from Ministry and Worship reported a desire to hold Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the second Sunday of May, May 11, despite our past custom of altering the date to avoid Mother’s Day, in order to avoid a conflict with Spring Gathering. Friends raised no concerns to keeping the date as May 11th. @
2. Nancy Riffer read the draft State of the Meeting Report, also circulated with today’s agenda via email. Friends appreciated the quality of the report. Nancy suggested a small revision to fix an inaccuracy in the report. Friends approved the report with this revision. @

2014 04.3 Ad Hoc Neighborhood Outreach Committee. Barbara Barry read the Ad Hoc Neighborhood Outreach Committee Report describing two events; a Northside Community Celebration, planned for Saturday July 26th, and a monthly children's activity, to commence at an undetermined date. The Northside Community Celebration event will involve music and food.

Friends discussed the liabilities that might be associated with hosting an event of this nature, and asked the Committee to explore these issues.

Friends approved the proposal from the Committee to host the July 26th Celebration. While the Ad Hoc committee will take the lead on organizing our Meeting's participation in the event, all Friends are encouraged to support the event as they are led. @

The committee is requesting \$500 from Meeting finances to help support the Northside Community Celebration event. The Ad Hoc Neighborhood Outreach Committee does not have a bud-

get. Friends discussed strategies for attaining this funding and approved the following minute:

The Committee may solicit donations from Friends on third Sundays between now and July, and write a newsletter article to solicit donations. In addition, the Committee is asked to work with Finance Committee to secure the additional funds necessary to meet the \$500 goal. @

2014 04.4 Treasure's Report. There was no formal presentation of the treasurer's report, but a PDF of the report was circulated over email.

2014 04.5 Other concerns. There were no other concerns. @

Fifteen Friends settled into worship at 1:25 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on May 11, 2014.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk*

May 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Afghan Activist: Program and Fundraiser Saturday, May 3, 11a

Fahima Gaheez (Vorgettts) will be presenting a program of information and slides about her work in Afghanistan; her presentation is at 1pm. In addition, the doors of the Meetinghouse will open at 11am and stay open through 5pm for her fundraiser.

Fahima sells beautiful rugs (some of her rugs grace the upstairs of the Meeting House), scarves, jewelry, etc. With Mother's Day coming, this is a wonderful opportunity to shop for your Mom while also learning about Afghan mothers and their families in this war torn part of the world.

How Do We "Hold Friends in the Light"? Sunday, May 4, 9a

We often ask Friends to hold individuals in the Light, but what do we mean by the phrase? Do you try to practice holding others in the Light on a regular basis? In particular, is this an area where we could be supporting one another's efforts? Do Friends have ideas for making the holding of others a more natural or more fulfilling experience? Please join this discussion led by Emily Williams about holding each other in the Light. This will be a place to talk

about personal experience with and strategies for holding others in the Light.

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, May 10, 1p

Please join us at the Burt House. All are welcome

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 11, 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, May 25, 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, May 29, 5p

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

Every Sunday

- 10:00a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse; entering silence by 10:15.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School:** attenders exit the meetingroom.

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