



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 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

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Mike Simkin
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu
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Ministry & Worship:

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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

Intergenerational Relationships at IMM

An interesting phenomenon is taking place in our meeting right now. It's hard to define, but it has to do with children, adults, and relationships. It has something to do with (as one Friend recently put it) questioning our habit of understanding children as "little unformed balls of spiritual potential." I have heard terms like "multigenerational," "intergenerational," and "age-inclusive" surface in seemingly unrelated conversations.

So much is happening at once: both CALM and Ministry and Worship have been exploring the possibility of not-entirely-silent intergenerational worship, either alongside or occasionally in place of our usual Meeting for Worship. Blair Jennings and Fell Cadwallader have proposed a biweekly all-ages gathering as a space for spiritual and personal reflection. In March, Melissa Blake and I organized a Sunday morning discussion about Quaker parenting; out of this have grown three more heartfelt discussions about ways to reach across generations. As I write this, CALM is working hard to develop an innovative structure for this year's First Day School (a major undertaking).

These efforts have been loosely coordinated through the circulation of a Quaker Home Service booklet entitled "Opening Minds" (copies of which are available on our library shelves). This booklet outlines a way of thinking about the spiritual life of the meeting across age divides, and the efforts named here all have this element in common. However, each project has been a separate and spontaneous expression of shared needs. I may be wrong here, but I believe I am hearing several distinct needs expressed: yes, a need to include and connect with children and a need to organize an unusually small First Day School crew . . . but also, I think, a need to define and reflect on our Quaker commitments to one another and a need to draw our faith community into a more unified whole.

See Relationships, page 2

Multi-generational Worship and First Day School for All

The Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee is considering something very different for the new First Day School year. In responding to a growing desire (bubbling up from many parts of meeting) that IMM's children be a more integral part of our Meeting's community, understand Quakerism by witnessing what we say, what we do, and how we worship, and by participating actively in Meeting for Worship, on September 7th from 9-10 am, CALM will host a multigenerational, organizational meeting for children, parents, and all members of the Meeting community.

During this meeting we will craft our new First Day School program to present at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on September 14th.

We are imagining a multigenerational First Day school program from 9:30 to 10:15 every Sunday which would include people of all ages learning about different aspects of Quaker Faith and Practice. This might include Bible Study, Godly Play stories, history, SPICES, ways of doing Business under the care of Worship, cooking together, stories, and many other things which the participants choose at monthly brainstorming Meetings. However, we are open to other leadings from Meeting.

See First Day School, page 2

There are several ways for you become involved in these overheard conversations. One great way is to talk to a member of CALM: Fred Horan, Ellie Rosenberg, Blair Jennings, or Ed Lisbe. You can also jump in by attending First Day School in its multigenerational form or the informal all-ages reflective gathering mentioned above. And if you are currently serving on a committee, you may choose to give some thought to how your committee's charge might look through a young person's eyes. How could children's experiences be incorporated into the particular work that you do? Could a young person be invited to join your committee, led by her own talents and affinities? Perhaps the most important thing each of us can do is also the simplest: learn the name of a young person in our meeting. Learn something else about her, like what she likes to do and what she's good at. Then give her an opportunity to learn those same things about yourself.

Each of these efforts focuses explicitly on the inclusion of children. This is crucial. But it's my sense that this work also opens a way for us to nourish relationships that reach across every dimension of our community. I was just paging through a list of queries written for parents, and I find that every one of them can be applied to interactions with people of any age. "How can I be open to my child, what she is facing, what she is feeling?" is just as weighty when we change it to "How can I be open to the adult standing before me, what he is facing, what he is feeling?"

— *Alexa Yesukevich*

Worship at Hector Meetinghouse

Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse (on Perry City Road, just west of the intersection with Jacksonville Road) will continue to be open for First Day worship through the month of September. Please remember that the time is 10:00a to 11:00a, 30 minutes earlier than in town.

— *Tom Brown*

Meetinghouse Combination

The combination to the Meetinghouse kitchen door will be changed as of October 1. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, and the Conveners of all committees will be sent the new combination. If you feel you need the new combination for IMM business, please contact one of the people listed above.

— *Gina Varrichio*

Our vision is that during multigenerational Meeting for Worship from 10:30 - 11:30am, Meeting would continue to engage a child care professional available upstairs for children from birth through age 8. CALM members and other friends will gladly provide encouragement and support for families as we transition.

What do you think? We want to include everyone in planning what actually happens, if you have questions or cannot come to the planning meeting, please contact Blair Jennings, Ellie Rosenberg, Fred Horan, or Ed Lisbe.

— *Ellie Rosenberg*

Burt House Caretaker Transitions

The Burt House, a meeting-owned property at 227 Willard Way in Ithaca, bids farewell to Friend-in-Residence, Shirley Way, as she moves on to a new home.

The meeting welcomes Violet Goncarovs and Brian Parks, who together will be the next caretakers, Friends-in-Residence. They have recently returned from Nablus, Palestine where Brian was an English teacher and counselor to youth, working for Teach for Palestine. Violet served as director for the organization and was also on the faculty of the Pioneers Baccalaureat School in Nablus.

Brian is a Lansing native and Violet is a familiar face to many, having grown up in the Ithaca Friends Meeting. Before returning to Palestine in 2012, she served as interim caretaker at the Burt House and taught First Day School in the IFM.

They may be reached at the Burt House phone number: 273-5421 or individually by email: btparks82@gmail.com(Brian) or violet.goncarovs@gmail.com

As many may be aware, the meeting is still reviewing the use of the Burt House, but there is currently space available for short-term housing to people who are part of the Quaker community. Violet or Brian may be contacted for an application and more information.

— *Mary Balfouree*

Nominating Committee: Let Us Hear From You

It is the task of the Nominating Committee to bring to Monthly Meeting nominations for officers, committees, representatives and trustees. Although the committee works throughout the year to fill unexpected vacancies, in the autumn Nominating Committee begins its work to fill vacancies which come up in January as terms end.

To help with this process, Nominating Committee is seeking assistance from members and attenders. If you have gifts or leadings which steer you to a specific committee or a specific role, we very much want to hear from you. If you have questions about committee participation, please ask. If you are interested in learning about the committees, you can go to the Meeting's website where some of the "Committee Charges" are listed under the heading of "Committees" or ask persons already serving on a committee or in a specific role. Current committees are listed below. If you wish to know who is currently serving on these committees or filling specific roles, there is a list on the gray desk in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Current committees:

- Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM)
- Directory
- Publicity
- Greeters
- Program
- Peace Witness
- Library
- Third Street Meetinghouse
- Hector Meetinghouse
- Newsletter
- Hospitality
- Pastoral Care
- Earth Care Witness
- Social Justice
- Finance
- Burt House

And there are two additional committees: Ministry and Worship, and Trustees. Unlike other committees, persons on these two must be members of Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

If you have any questions or wish to have your interests in a specific committee or a specific role known, please speak with one of the committee members: Blair Jennings, Bronwyn Mohlke, Ellie Rosenberg, Elizabeth Schneider, and Joanne Sturgeon.

September in IMM History

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

15 Years Ago (September 13, 1999)

The Committee on Children and the Life of the Meeting plans a welcome for First Day School children before Meeting for Worship when we go back to Anabel Taylor Hall the first Sunday of October. Meeting approved Bronwyn Mohlke's project of holding a children's book fair in the Fall, with the proceeds to benefit IMM's children's library.

20 Years Ago (September 12, 1994)

Trustees have received a letter from the City of Ithaca indicating interest in buying the land on the point below the Burt House to be included in a major park along Fall Creek. Meeting's attorney has been consulted on the City's right of eminent domain; it is unlikely that we could prevent the taking. Meeting approved that Trustees respond to the letter indicating an interest in meeting with City officials on the matter. Trustees will consult as necessary with our attorney on the matter. Friends with concerns may speak to either Trustees or the Burt House Committee (Chuck Mohler and Bonnie Tyler, convenors). [Transfer of the Point to the City was completed in late 1999.]

25 Years Ago (September 11, 1989)

Two minutes were approved regarding role and responsibilities of Trustees:

1. IMM affirms the role of Trustees as those who have responsibility for holding title and executing necessary documents on behalf of the Meeting for all property held by IMM. Such Trustees have no independent authority or discretion and they may act only in accordance with the direction of the Meeting as inscribed in the minutes.

2. IMM directs the Trustees to take responsibility for legal documents for the transfer of the Burt Property to IMM and for the care of the property until directed otherwise. [The Burt House Committee was formed subsequently and given responsibility for general management of the property.]

30 Years Ago (September 10, 1984)

A letter from a woman unnamed in the minutes, forwarded by Jane Simkin, was read, seeking funds for working with Jim Corbett in "evasive services," getting refugees out of El Salvador and Guatemala. Out of over \$4,000 which IMM had accumulated in surplus funds over the previous four years, \$1,000 was committed to this project, with \$500 to be sent to her immediately and the remainder as requested. A special fund will also be created through which Friends can contribute their support. This Sunday at 6PM we will be joining the First Baptist Church with a dish-to-pass supper, film, and discussion of the Sanctuary movement. The Baptists are in the process of discerning their church's involvement. [They later became actively involved with IMM, the New Jewish Agenda, and individuals from several other churches.]

40 Years Ago (September 9, 1974)

Marjorie Burt reported for Tom Brown and the Program Committee. Kenneth Boulding will be visiting Cornell for three weeks as Visiting Professor, and will meet with us for worship on Sept. 22. He will be invited to stay for the discussion, which will be on conflict resolution. He is also available Mon. Oct. 7 for an informal gathering of the Ithaca Meeting; plans are for a dish-to-pass supper at the Browns.

— Tom Brown, IMM historian

We're Hosting Fall Gathering, September 20

Ithaca Monthly Meeting will host Fall Gathering on September 20th at our meetinghouse. This is a wonderful way to get to know Friends from around our region. We hope that Ithaca Friends who have not yet been involved with regional activities will participate. Please register with Marilyn Ray, as we need to know how many Friends will be attending.

There are many ways to help host this event! If you are willing to lend a hand, these are the Friends to contact with specific offers:

Food: Holly White / whiteho@gmail.com / (315) 345-2764

Youth Program: Gina Varrichio / zealth_1@yahoo.com / 272-2512

Overnight Hospitality: Bronwyn Mohlke / BJQMohlke@gmail.com / 220-3219

Other offers of help: Marilyn Ray / mlr17@cornell.edu / 539-7778

Celebrating Lives and Lift Stories: Everyone Has A Story!

The morning program, from 9:30-11:15a, will be led by Barbara Spring, ARCH Coordinator. This interactive session will include providing time to experience the joy and value of sharing life stories: George Fox wrote: "...let us know how the truth spreads and prospers amongst you." Techniques for when, where and how we celebrate one another will be discussed, and each meeting will be given tools to continue the story gathering at home.

Light breakfast fare and beverages will be available from 8:45-9:30a. Lunch, 11:30-12:15, will be soups, breads, cheeses and beverages. (If you need a special diet, please bring your food with you.)

The Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will run from 12:30 to 3p.

For Friends interested in participating in the Climate March in New York City on September 21, a bus will leave from our meetinghouse after the rise of FSRM Fall Gathering (see "The People's Climate March, right).

For additional information or answers to questions, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke at BJQMohlke@gmail.com or 607-220-3219 (c) or Marilyn Ray at mlr17@cornell.edu or 607-539-7778 (during the day).

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Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, August 10, 2014

2014 08.5 Treasurers Report. Mike Simkin, Treasurer, reported on the state of the meeting finances. Mike noted that we have received \$33,000 towards the installation of the elevator, and that \$11,000 has been spent already. Partly because a larger number of Friends are using regular, automated donations to Meeting, our year-to-date donations are higher than they have been in the past. Mike briefly described issues relating to an increase in our insurance cost. Friends received the report. @

The People's Climate March, September 21

In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution.

On September 21st, the People's Climate March will give testimony to the many thousands of us who are not willing to sit idly by while our ecosystem rapidly unravels. This is an opportunity for us to bear witness, to join the largest climate march in history, to march together as Friends. Friends are gathering from across the Yearly Meeting and across the country to join in this historic march. Come, be a part of it.

There will be a bus leaving from Ithaca meetinghouse at rise of FSRM Fall Gathering, and going that night to 15th Street Meeting. The cost is \$25 per person, round-trip. The cost of the bus trip is being offset by a generous grant from NYYM's Witness Activity Fund. Those that can camp out in the meetinghouse, sleeping on cushions from the benches, are welcome to do so. Those that cannot will be matched up with Friends offering limited hospitality in the area.

We will gather the morning before the march to worship at 15th Street Meeting, and then go to join the Quaker contingent near Central Park (exact location to be announced). The bus will take Friends back to Ithaca MM after the march, arriving around 8:00-9:00 pm Sunday.

With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to demand that world leaders, and particularly our own, take action to address climate change. See you there!

— Christopher Sammond

If you would like to register to go on the bus, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke at BJQMohlke@gmail.com or 220-3219

Friends Bike Clinic

The Friends Bike Clinic has been a presence each Sunday on the back deck of the meetinghouse, offering all comers the opportunity to repair bicycles at no cost. The clinic's weekly presence on the back deck wraps up for the season on September 14.

2014 08.6 Other concerns. There were no other concerns.

Fourteen Friends settled into worship at 2:00 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on September 14, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, August 10, 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. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2014 08.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on August 10, 2014. At 12:10 pm, 16 Friends gathered and settled into worship. The then clerk acknowledged Nancy Gabriel who was holding the meeting in the Light.

Clerk read a poem from *Sparrow Light*, given through Helen and Karl Schantz:

Dialogues of Love received after the death of a loved friend:

Come here and mourn this Life
which we know so little.
The tentative way in which
she walked, is tender.
She was all bud,
instead of finished flower.
It is to this growing edge
that you shall look.
Her life continues to bear fruit!
Nothing is ended, really,
though (humanly) so it seems.
The invisible becomes stronger,
that is all.
Love connects you still. All is well.

for F. August 1, 1984

2014 08.2 Report from the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. Dick Crepeau reported on behalf of the Third Street Meeting House Committee (TSMC). The TSMC has identified a need to change the combination on the kitchen door lock. The committee proposed that any member or attender who needs to access the meetinghouse as part of engaging in the work of the Meeting will be given the new combination upon request.

In some instances, the combination may be given to those outside the meeting who are using the meetinghouse. Friends discussed how this might work and be managed. The TSMC recommends that the distribution be limited to a few individuals who are well-known to Friends in the meeting and who serve as primary contacts for groups who have been using the meetinghouse on a regular basis.

The TSMC asked Friends to refrain from using the meetinghouse for personal business, other than for brief errands. A concern was expressed that this request seems to be based on fear instead of faith and trust. Friends observed that faith and trust exist in tension with responsibility and stewardship. Further, leaving our building accessible may be a source of temptation.

Friends approved that the combination on the kitchen door lock will be changed. Any member or attender who needs to access the meetinghouse as part of engaging in the work of the Meeting will be given the combination upon request to the TSMC, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, clerks of committees or the coordinator of the meetinghouse sweepers. The name of each combination holder and the reason for needing the combination should be sent to the attention of TSMC member John Lewis (johnsherwood@yahoo.com).

Friends acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the responsibilities for stewardship with accessibility and openness. @

2014 08.3 Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support: Monthly Collection. The Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support requested that a basket be put out one Sunday a month for the Refugee Assistance Fund. Contributions to the fund will be used for the ongoing needs of Ambroise Lumanikio, the refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who is presently living in the Burt House. Ambroise is doing well, and is currently receiving about \$100/month from this fund, which has a balance of about \$1000. Ambroise is also receiving free housing in the Burt House.

Friends should note that contributions to the Refugee Assistance Fund are not tax-deductible because they are designated for the care of a single individual.

Friends approved the setting out of a collection basket once a month in support of the Refugee Assistance Fund and specifically for the support of Ambroise Lumanikio, presently living at the Burt House. We will revisit the need for collection of funds in three months. @

2014 08.4 Report from Steve Mohlke regarding the Ithaca Monthly Meeting Website. Steve Mohlke reported on work he has engaged in through his participation with School of the Spirit, giving careful consideration of how the Ithaca Monthly Meeting's website can contribute the health and vitality of our meeting. He envisions that an improved website would make it easier for long-time members and newcomers alike to access information that would enhance their ability to participate in meeting.

This goal could be achieved if many Friends were engaged in managing what is available on the website through a simple, straightforward interface. Friends warmly accepted the report from Steve. Such a website will require additional work, but is likely to be worthwhile.

Friends approved this general update to the organization of the meeting's web site and the movement in the direction of shared responsibility for maintaining up-to-date content. We commit our energy and resources to implementing the plan that Steve has proposed, as it unfolds over time. Many more of us will take responsibility for ensuring that our website remains accurate and provides useful information. @

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Women's Chair Yoga

Women's chair yoga meets on Mondays and Fridays from 11am to noon in the Third St. Meetinghouse. This gentle, centered practice focuses on health of body, mind and spirit, especially for women. No special equipment necessary. Just come, or contact Nancy Gabriel for information: ntg2@cornell.edu, 277-8930. We make a voluntary donation for the teacher.

Bus to People's Climate March

There will be a bus leaving from Ithaca meetinghouse in the afternoon of Saturday, September 20, and going that night to 15th Street Meeting in Manhattan. The People's Climate March is Sunday, September 21. The cost is \$25 per person, round-trip. See page 4 for more information, or contact Bronwyn Mohlke.

September 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Planning for First Day School for All Sunday, September 7, 9a

As described on page 1, we are considering something very different for the new First Day School year. We are imagining a multigenerational educational program from 9:30 to 10:15 every Sunday which would include people of all ages learning about different aspects of Quaker Faith and Practice. During this meeting we will craft our new First Day School program to present at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on September 14th. We hope to including everyone in planning.

Discussion with Director of OAR Sunday, September 7, noon

Our Social Justice committee will be hosting Deb Dietrich, Director of OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources). The discussion will revolve around Tompkins County Jail Expansion and the role of OAR with County's assistance in posting bail. Do you know that the County helps folks post \$3,000 bail or less? Do you know that those in the county jail who are there because they are unable to post bond far exceeds the 3 or 4 beds being added? Do you know that money you pay to hold someone in jail far exceeds the cost to post bail? Please come.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 14, Rise of Meeting

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

Conversation about Children, Adults & Meeting Sunday, September 21, 9a

Join in this conversation on **community**: What does it mean to hang out supportively with Quaker kids who aren't your own (whether you are a parent or not)? Where and when has this proved most successful? How can we encourage young people in building trusting, safe relationships? Where can supportive adults look for ideas and resources? Most importantly, what might kids need from us? All are invited to attend. Childcare provided.

Brunch Sunday, September 21, 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, August 28, 5p

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

Note: There will be no Earthcare meeting in September, as third Sunday corresponds to the People's Climate March in NYC.

Every Sunday

- 9:30a Multigenerational **First Day School** at Third Street Meetinghouse
- 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 **Childcare (0-8 years old)**: attenders exit the meeting-room 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)
- Sun 1-3p **Friends Bike Clinic** on the meetinghouse deck (through September 14)