



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2015

IMM CONTACTS

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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

Deepening our Faith through the Third Street Meetinghouse

— Karen Friedeborn

Just about a year ago many of us spent a day together at a retreat here at our meetinghouse entitled “Deepening our Faith through the Third Street Meetinghouse”.

Some overarching theses emerged from that retreat:

- “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 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. And there may not be a clear line between worship and “outside” gatherings; worship is one expression of faith, and community work is another.

So what has happened in the past year? How are we living our faith as a meeting through the use of the meetinghouse? I am happy to report that the Third Street Meetinghouse has been a beehive of activity. We continue to invite friends and neighbors in for all sorts of activities.

I am especially excited to report that a new neighborhood group, a seed planted by the

continued on page 2

Monarch Butterflies, Genetic Engineering, and Earth Day.

— Betsy Keokosky, on behalf of the Earthcare Committee

“The last word in ignorance is the man who says of a plant or animal, “What good is it?”

— Aldo Leopold

There have been less monarchs around – I see maybe two or three a year and no caterpillars – and I have milkweed and a nine-acre field around me. When I first came to Ithaca in 1970 they were common. My son and I did that classic little kid experiment – we put some monarch caterpillars in a big jar and let them pupate. It was a moment I shall never forget. When the butterfly started emerging we took it and its twig outside in the sunlight where it very slowly unfolded its wings and pumped them like a heart beat there right before our eyes before it flew off, launching itself into the world. I felt I had been a participant in a miracle.

continued on page 2

Deepening our Faith, continued from page 1

IMM Neighborhood Outreach Committee, is growing and thriving. The group called Northside United is a diverse group of over thirty Northside neighbors. We meet as the meetinghouse once a month to share dinner, learn about each other's culture and work on improving our neighborhood. Last month we had a soul food dinner and learned about Black history. This month we will have an "Asian Fusion" dinner hosted by Japanese, Filipino, Burmese and Tibetan members of the group. Northside United has identified the following project areas of interest: affordable housing, cooperative childcare, advocating for a playground for older children, creating a neighborhood emergency fund, a neighborhood newsletter, beautification projects, and the 2nd annual Northside Community Celebration.

It is wondrous to witness the interface between Friends and the groups coming into the building. It feels like the working of the spirit to me. This is the type of communion and community I seek and I am learning that others do too. It is happening slowly and I am feeling a growing sense of the vision from our retreat coming to fruition.

I am moved when I hear someone say they decided to attend meeting for worship because they were here for another meeting. I am moved when I see the respect and care people take for the meetinghouse when they are welcomed in. I hear such gratitude that we are willing to share such a warm and welcoming place with them. I feel moved when people who might never step foot in the meetinghouse feel like they belong here and the meeting becomes knit in to the neighborhood.

If you are led to work on any of Northside United's projects with our neighbors, please contact Karen Friedeborn at Karen.friedeborn@gmail.com or (607) 280-5208. There is a need for Friends to help in Northside United committees to move the work along.

Quaker Witness Discussion, April 19

The term "Quaker Witness" is often used to describe a spirit-led action to show the world the error of its ways. Bearing witness to one's beliefs through action is central to practicing Quaker faith.

Many Friends in our Meeting have witnessed through public action the truth in their hearts. In recent months, several Friends chose to be arrested as a non-violent act of civil disobedience to protest the use of abandoned salt mines near Seneca Lake for storage of natural and liquid gas. The Program Committee submitted the following questions to these Friends:

When you made the decision to act in civil disobedience that would lead to your arrest, did you sense this was a spiritual leading? How did you know you should take this action? What motivated you?

What fears, inner resistance, or trepidation did you experience and what enabled you to act in spite of this? Please talk about the importance to you of personal witness compared with outcome or effectiveness of the action. Was anything different from your expectations?

Join us on Sunday, April 19 at 9am on the second floor of the Third Street Meeting House to hear Friends share their experience.

— IMM Program Committee

Monarchs, continued from page 1

Since the late 90's, population counts of migrating monarchs overwintering in Mexico have been showing marked decreases which scientists link to the destruction of habitat, both in Mexico and in the US. In Mexico the cause is climate warming and deforestation. In the US the culprit is loss of the monarch's main food source - milkweed.

Milkweed is a native pollinator plant integrated into the native ecology of the central and eastern United States. It has fallen victim to the more flexible and effective weed spraying schedules allowed by genetically engineered crops, also called genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Previously broad spectrum herbicides could only be used before seedlings emerged because spraying also killed crops. This allowed random milkweed plants to grow amongst the corn rows with no appreciable crop loss.

Now crops have built-in herbicide resistance (such as those marketed as "Round Up Ready") and later spraying is geared to eliminate all weeds while plants are actively growing. The northeastern monarch's main migration corridor is from Mexico to Canada flying northeast through the Corn Belt following the bloom of the milkweed that overhead photography reveals is no longer there. This coincides with where and when GMO crops have been used. The percentage of GMOs used in the Midwest is over 90% for corn and soy and well over 50% for other major field crops such as canola and sugar beets.

Whether monarchs are the canary in the coalmine or just a celebrity insect in the media, it is worth considering what this means to us and the environment. In New York State, legislation requiring product labeling for GMO usage has been introduced and failed for the last two years. A petition now being circulated that would support it again in 2015. GMO products are ubiquitous but totally unacknowledged to the consumer. Without labels none of us who buy groceries has any way of knowing which items were made, processed, or fed with GMOs. GMOs are used to produce common food ingredients like high-fructose corn syrup, xanthan gum, and ascorbic acid, as well as feed for the animals that provide our meat.

The United States is one of the few industrialized countries in the world that does not require labeling of genetically modified foods, unlike 64 other countries which include European Union countries, Japan, Australia, and China. The only state requiring it so far is Vermont (now being challenged in federal court).

On this Earth Day, when we are asking ourselves why the familiar monarch is becoming less familiar, let us at least pay attention to the extremely important juncture where ecology and biotechnology now meet the road. The costs and consequences are too critical not to be able at least to voice a demand for new practices and better management with our purchasing power.

Note: a table for petitioning our representatives will be out on the third Sunday, April 19th, the weekend before Earth Day which is April 22nd.

IMM Statement of Conscience

Approved by IMM business meeting in March

We write on behalf of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). What follows draws from a statement from the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. We stand with those who speak out against injustice and are working to bring change to a broken criminal justice system.

We recognize that policing is sometimes difficult and dangerous work and are grateful for those who undertake it in service to our communities. We all suffer with any loss of life in law enforcement encounters. It is perhaps understandable that the stress of the work together with fear of the unknown can cause any of us to overreact. But fear is not the only factor at work here.

Our faith and shared human history lead us to believe that violence—whether arising out of fear, an imbalance of power, racism or vengeance—will never take us to a path of justice and healing. Furthermore, we believe that when we do violence to others we also do violence to ourselves. We seek to work for a civil society that affirms the presence of God within each and all of us without exception.

Whether we are poor, homeless, a police officer, lawyer, doctor, gas station attendant, waitress, or unemployed, our lives matter. We know this truth through the practice of our faith, in which we experience the spark of the Divine present in each of us. We know all persons to be equally worthy of love, respect, and justice. Tragically, fifty years after they were spoken, the words of famed civil rights organizer Ella Baker still apply: “Until the killing of black men, black mothers’ sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of a white mother’s son, we who believe in freedom cannot rest until this happens.” When we do not live out this truth, each of us is harmed, all of us are damaged.

But our civil society is constructed in such a way that the lives of people of color matter less than white lives. This condition ex-

tends beyond policing into education, the media, the system of mass incarceration, housing patterns, employment, and virtually every aspect of life in the United States, including its faith communities. Therefore, we call for both recognition and remedy of this condition and we call upon civil authorities to take leadership in bringing this about. We call upon all people of faith, ourselves included, to understand how we may be complicit in a system that extends privileges to people identified as white while denying the same to those identified as people of color.

It is clearly in the interest of our shared humanity and our common spiritual condition to change these circumstances. It is in our material, economic, and social interests to do so as well. This is not easy work. But we pray the burden of this work may be easier to bear than the moral burden of settling back, once the furor subsides, into complacent acceptance of a system and a society that fail to affirm our most fundamental relationship to God and to one another.

This is first and foremost a call to individual action to join the groundswell of community response happening right here and now in Ithaca. We call for each of us to reach across the illusions of racial differences in each of our personal encounters – at work, in stores, and on the street – and respond in some personal and individual way to simply help someone else meet our common human needs. We call for each of us to participate in some form of the community discussions now underway, bringing open minds and hearts to listen and learn from others. We call for each of us to persist in holding our elected and appointed civil authorities accountable for their actions by helping vet policies and action plans and exercising the power of our votes. We call for each of us to challenge resistance to change found in all organizations and faith communities. There is no greater power for change than a growing number of individuals committed to helping each other to realize and act from Truth.

— *Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

IMM Workshops on Aging, Death and Dying

The next ARCH workshop will take place on Sunday, April 26, after a chance to enjoy some food from the brunch. This month, Friend and Arch Visitor Betsy Root will share her experiences with Vigiling:

The journey into death is such an important one that I believe each person deserves as much support as possible. Our role is to help make the transition a spiritual one, deserving of care and prayerful preparation. Our work is sitting, talking, praying, helping with those things the dying feel badly about, and creating rituals to help them let go. And we vigil until they die.

Betsy has invited several guests who will share their unique perspective on this practice. These guests include a Hospice nurse and several Friends who attended loved ones through this sacred transition. This workshop should prove to be a powerful and moving learning opportunity.

April’s workshop is part of a series this spring, focusing on the issues, concerns & opportunities facing us and/or our loved ones in the last third of our/their lives. The remaining workshop will be

on May 31 and will cover an important document known as “Five Wishes,” a document that lets your family and doctor know your preferences about end of life issues.

In February, we discussed issues and opportunities that occur in the last third of life, such as: financial limits; vision & hearing loss; accepting care with grace & gratitude; deepening living in the moment; and opening opportunities / time to try new things.

In March, we learned about assembling an organized list of tasks so that we will leave an orderly state of legal and financial affairs for our loved ones to deal with after our passing. And we learned about some spiritual activities that can enrich our last third of life like Legacy Letters and Life Reflection Stories.

You do not need to have attended previous workshops to attend the remaining ones and if you are interested in the materials from previous workshops, they are available upon request mollyb.molly@gmail.com

— *Molly Ames*

April 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 (April 14, 2010)

Antonia Saxon read Hector Meetinghouse Cemetery Policies recommended by Trustees and developed by the ad hoc Hector Meetinghouse Cemetery Policy Committee. [These may be found on-line in the May 2010 newsletter.]

15 Years Ago (April 10, 1990)

Marion DaGrossa was welcomed into membership of IMM.

20 Years Ago (April 11, 1995)

It was reported that certificate of transfer of membership has been received for Ellie Rosenberg, from Swarthmore MM to IMM.

30 Years Ago (April 8, 1985)

The Sanctuary Committee report indicated that several Ithaca religious groups are planning an ecumenical welcoming service for Esperanza. Funds and personal help have been coming in from a wide spectrum of people.

35 Years Ago (April 14, 1980)

Much of the Business Meeting was devoted to developing guidelines for the wise use of the Oliver bequest to the Meeting, which included the proceeds from the sale of their home on Linden Avenue. It was also recorded in the minutes that we celebrated Marjorie Burt's ninetieth birthday with a party in the Founders Room of Anabel Taylor Hall on April 3.

45 Years Ago (April 13, 1970)

Hugh Phipps, clerk of Young Friends, reported that over the past academic year the group has become more spiritually involved and less of an activist group. They have been involved in sending Walter Westman, a past clerk of the group, to Congress as an advisor to Senator Muskie on Ecology. They have also attempted to organize War and Peace studies as a peaceful alternative to ROTC.

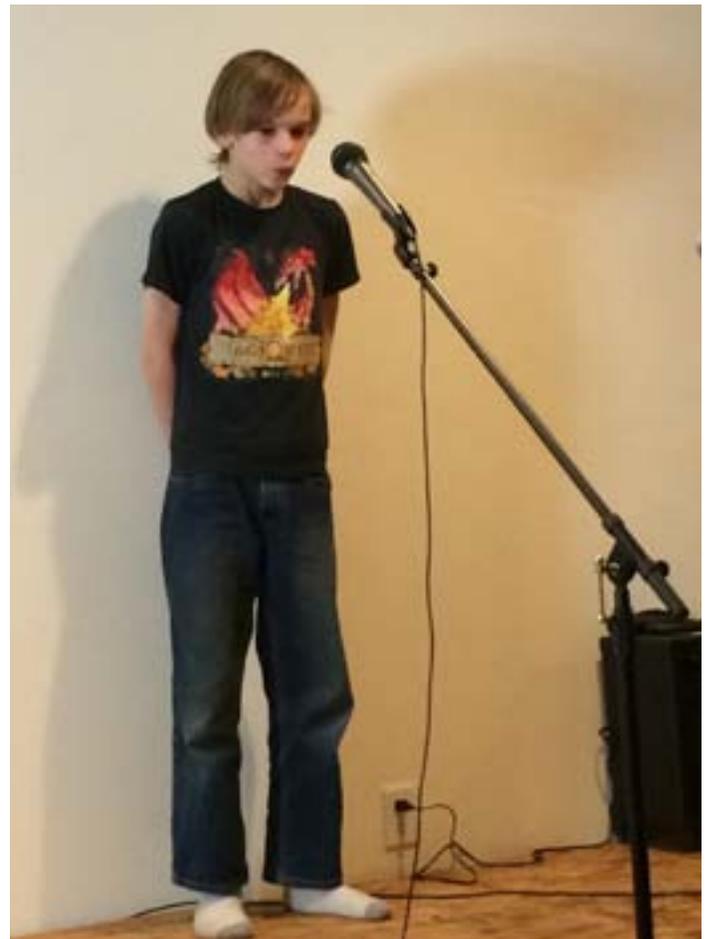
65 Years Ago (April 10, 1950)

William Mendenhall of Cornell presented the war memorial aspects of the planned Interfaith Center [Anabel Taylor Hall]. The university committee on the war memorial did not want the usual type of war memorial, [he said], but one looking toward peace education and the emergence of a better world. The program of the building was to be the war memorial feature. Friends expressed uneasiness about the tie between the war-making state and religion expressed in the memorial features of the physical plant. It was the sense of the Meeting that we should express our deep concern to the board of CURW, to the University President, to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and possibly to Myron Taylor and to the Editor of the Cornell Sun. Harrop Freeman was asked to draw up this concern.

85 Years Ago (April 15, 1930)

The Annual Business Meeting of the Ithaca Association of Friends (IAF) was held this day. Joshua Cope reported for the Committee on Plan of Procedure as follows: IAF: A group of Friends – members of different Yearly Meetings and other interested persons residing temporarily or permanently in Ithaca or vicinity; formally organized 3rd Month 7th, 1926, at which time a clerk and other officers were appointed. A notice of this organization was sent to all of the Yearly Meetings represented by the membership at that time. The Plan of Procedure included: (1) an annual business meeting on the 2nd third day after the spring recess of the University; (2) That the appointment of a clerk and treasurer for the coming year take place at that meeting; (3) That at this Meeting a standing committee of five on program for the ensuing year be appointed, two of whom will be members of the group permanently in residence in Ithaca (4) That a special business meeting be held on the third First Day after the opening of college in the fall, for the purpose of adding two students to the Program Committee. Duties of the clerk, treasurer, and Program Committee were specified. For the year 1930-31, J. A. Cope was appointed clerk and Amy Grace Mekeel, treasurer. Program Committee appointments were Loren Petry, Edith Cope, and Esther Harris. William Hicks (1932) was appointed to the CUCA Board [now CURW].

— Tom Brown, IMM historian



We Got Talent: Alex whistles impressively at the March 7th Talent Show

Overdue: Meeting House Library Books

Perhaps you've noticed that the box holding cards of checked-out books in our library is chock full. It is! If you have a book titled *Raising Elijah*, or *Right Relationship* or *Worship—The Gathered Meeting Revisited* or *The Tax Dilemma: Praying for Peace Paying for War or Faith and Practice* or *Godless for God's Sake* or *Light to Live By* or *Storms of my Grandchildren* or *The Dynamics of an Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship* or *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* or any other of the many titles missing from our Library, please return them so others might enjoy them as well.

— Marion DaGrossa, on behalf of the
Third Street Meetinghouse Library Committee

A Plea from the Scholarship Subcommittee of Ministry and Worship

Perhaps twenty-five years ago a Meeting scholarship fund was established to encourage Ithaca Friends to participate in activities in the wider Quaker world. After a relatively quiet period, there has been a surge in requests for support so that Friends could go to Powell House, Pendle Hill, Woolman Hill, and Regional and Yearly Meeting gatherings. This is great news, and Ithaca Meeting is reaping the benefit from the ideas and inspiration that our traveling Friends bring back. However, in only the third month of this year, less than a quarter of the budgeted scholarship money remains.

We hope Friends will respond generously to this unusual plea for contributions, so that we can offer support for the many upcoming retreats, workshops and especially the Yearly Meeting gathering at Silver Bay in July. Please send checks to our Treasurer, Mike Simkin, noting "scholarship fund" in the memo line. Thank you.

Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP)

Would anyone be interested in supporting AVP in Ithaca and Elmira Correctional Facility by being a member of an AVP Elmira Council Advisory Board? This Board would meet occasionally to give advice and support to the Facilitators now doing AVP work. Three of the five regular facilitators are members of Meeting. The amount of time and effort needed would not be burdensome, but we would welcome this support. Contact Susan Wolf (QuakerWolf@gmail.com) if you would like to consider this and have questions you would like answered.

Spring Gathering, May 15-17: Convening Quakers in the Region

Spring Gathering is the biggest of three annual meetings of Quakers in the "Farmington-Scipio" region of New York (essentially from here to Buffalo). This three day retreat is a wonderful opportunity to expand your experience of Quakerism. For more information and the registration form (due April 13), visit <http://www.quakerwny.com/?q=node/176>

The featured speaker at Spring Gathering will be Nick Rozard. He grew up in Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting. Now in his early thirties he is a member of Alfred Meeting. He has been following a leading for the past few years seeking to live conscientiously in all things (including not paying for war and living lightly on our one home, Earth). It also includes using his degree in ceramic engineering to develop an inexpensive water filter that is more than 99% effective in killing harmful bacteria. This work is in-process. A few years ago Nick spent more than a year in Indonesia where the need for such a filter is evident.

Nick will speak to us on Saturday morning of Spring Gathering and lead us in small-group discussion. He will also offer an afternoon workshop. There will be several other afternoon workshop topics to choose from as well.

Note that this year, there is not preset fee for registration, in hopes that this will make it possible for all to attend Spring Gathering no matter what our financial circumstances.

Friends Bike Clinic Begins Sunday April 19th

Friends Bike Clinics, a free weekly bike repair gathering hosted by Ithaca Monthly Meeting, will be starting its fifth season in April. YOU bring your bicycle and a willingness to get your hands dirty. WE bring air pumps, chain oil, tools and expertise.

This year Friends Bike Clinics will be held Sunday April 19th to September 20th. We'll be at the Quaker Meetinghouse deck on Madison and Third in Northside Ithaca NY every Sunday from 1pm to 3pm. Join us! Friends Bike Clinic is a project of the Earthcare Committee of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting. For more information contact laurence@boxybikes.com.

Breath

"Take a breather," they said,

"Before we dive back in."

So I breathe in deeply

and water fills my lungs.

— Thea Clarkberg

Many upcoming opportunities for fellowship in wider Quaker Circles

This is a snapshot view of events coming up in the next few months. The location, dates, and Friends to contact for more information are included. All Friends (members and attenders) are welcome at these events.

NYYM Spring Sessions April 10-12

Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie
Shirley Way, Steve Mohlke

Nightingales April 24-26

A cappella singing gathering / part of NYYM
Near Poplar Ridge Meeting
Blake family, Melody Johnson, Bronwyn Mohlke

If you love to sing, come join with others who love it too! Come sing with us around a campfire in a lovely rural setting. You do not have to be a great, or even a good singer to participate. Bronwyn Mohlke is the registrar for this event. Please contact her to sign up (220-3219 or BJQMohlke@gmail.com)

Spring Gathering May 15-17

Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY (near Elmira)
One of three annual gatherings of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting; see page 5 for more information.
Marilyn Ray, Shirley Way

FGC (Friends General Conference) July 5-11

Theme: Seeking Wholeness
Cullowhee, NC
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>
Ellie Rosenberg, Janis Kelly, Steve Mohlke, Dick Crepeau & Melody Johnson

NYYM Summer Sessions July 19-25

Silver Bay, on Lake George
<http://nyym.org/?q=node/976>
Shirley Way, Steve Mohlke
Theme: 320 Years, One Faith; 60 Years, One Meeting; Today, One Vision

2015 is the 320th anniversary of the creation of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. 2015 is also the 60th anniversary of our becoming a united yearly meeting, approved at Summer Sessions 1955. And finally, 2015 will be the first calendar year during which we will consider and worship on our shared Leadings and Priorities, approved at the 2014 NYYM Summer Sessions. (Find the full text of the Leadings and Priorities online at nyym.org)

IMM Retreat with Marcelle Martin, May 1-3

Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

At the beginning of Quakerism, great power moved through the faithful lives and witness of ordinary people who responded to God's transforming call. Join us to examine ten elements of the spiritual journey experienced by early Friends and reflect on our own experiences today.

To register for the retreat, visit: <https://ithacafriends.wufoo.com/forms/registration-5153-retreat/>

Retreat hours are: May 1, Friday evening 7-9pm; May 2, Saturday 9am-3pm with lunch included, and May 3, Sunday 9-10:15am

Friends may register for any one or two sessions or all three sessions. All sessions will be at the meetinghouse.

Our retreat leader, Marcelle Martin wrote,

For many summers I lived alone and spent my days reading about early Friends and their times. Summer by summer, I pieced together my own account of the beginning of the Quaker movement. I was fascinated by their collective experience and the powerful way so many of them went into the world proclaiming the radical message of the Light of Christ within, challenging oppression of all sorts. Their stories were dramatic, heart-wrenching, and inspiring. In recent years I've looked more closely at the nature of their spiritual experience, asking myself: What, exactly, was the transformation they underwent that enabled them to become such bold witnesses to the truth they discovered? Through taking up companionship with early Friends, I've gained a clearer sense of their collective spiritual journey. In Christian history there have been other individuals and groups who underwent a similar transformation, but the way Quakers spoke about it has some distinctive qualities. Today there is some crucial learning to be gained from them—not only by contemporary Quakers but by spiritual seekers of all sorts. Understanding the transformation they experienced can help us to become more responsive instruments in God's hands, more able agents for the service, witness, innovation, cultural change, reconciliation, and healing needed in our time.

Marcelle Martin served as a Quaker studies teacher and spiritual nurturer at Pendle Hill, a Quaker Study Center near Philadelphia. A graduate of the Shalem Institute program on spiritual Guidance and the School of the Spirit's program on Contemplative Living and Prayer, Marcelle works with meetings to deepen their spiritual practices. She is the author of two Pendle Hill pamphlets, *Holding One Another in the Light* and *Invitation to a Deeper Communion*. Copies of these pamphlets are in the meetinghouse library. Marcelle's blog can be found at <http://awholeheart.com>. She is a member of Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting (PA).

— IMM Program Committee

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

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(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.)

2015 3.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 8, 2015. At 12:15 pm, seventeen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel and Nancy Riffer who were holding the Meeting in the Light.

Clerk read from Lloyd Lee Wilson's *Radical Hospitality* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 427):

Two hundred years ago, the traveling Quaker minister Joseph Hoag was detained by a military force during the War of 1812. Called upon to explain his presence in the area, Hoag explained he was traveling in the ministry and described the faith and practice of Friends to the commanding general and his staff officers. Joseph Hoag wrote in his journal that when he had finished his explanation, the general made no answer, but sat and hung his head for some time. One of the company at length replied, "Well stranger, if all the world was of your mind, I would turn and follow after." I replied, "So thee has a mind to be the last man in the world to do good. I have a mind to be one of the first, and set the rest an example."

2015 3.2 Ad Hoc Committee working on a Statement of Conscience

At the February 2015 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friends considered and approved a Statement of Conscience prepared by an ad hoc committee in response to the recent grand jury decisions not to indict police officers who had killed unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and in New York City. Very soon after the meeting, concerns were raised about the Statement. Friends learned that many have interpreted the use of the phrase "All lives matter" in the place of "Black lives matter" as dismissive of the struggle for justice that black people face daily. The ad hoc committee withdrew the Statement and subsequently made additional revisions.

Karen Friedeborn, a member of the ad hoc committee, read a revised version of the Statement of Conscience. Friends considered the weight of the clause "our lives matter" in the statement, and were at ease with the proposed language. Friends approved adopting the Statement of Conscience for Ithaca Monthly Meeting. @

Friends affirmed the intention, approved last month, that the Statement be shared with local media and with other Quaker bodies, including *Friends Journal*, *Spark*, and Quaker meetings within our yearly meeting. The ad hoc group will assist the Clerk in this task. The Statement may be forwarded elsewhere as appropriate. @

[The Statement is shared here on page 3.]

2015 3.3 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, reported that February is typically a slow month, and that financial activities are fairly normal. Mike expressed gratitude for our overall fiscal health, and invited anyone who is interested in receiving monthly financial statements to contact him. A Friend had a specific question for Mike about the AVP budget line. Friends received the report. @

2015 3.4 Other concerns

A Friend recalled a previous discussion about the structures of committees in our Meeting, and wondered how that discussion has evolved. We heard that Nominating committee is just beginning to talk about this topic. Friends were encouraged to talk with members of Nominating committee (Steve Mohlke, Elizabeth Schneider, Nancy Riffer, Garry Thomas, Joanne Sturgeon) about their concerns.

A Friend reminded committees to be sure to look around the Library for mail they may have received. A need for a better mailbox system was identified and another Friend volunteered to donate one she has available. @

Echoing the comments of another Friend, the Clerk held up the work of the ad hoc committee as moved by the Spirit.

Twenty Friends settled into worship at 12:50 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on April 12, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg

May Meeting for Business

Our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in May will be held on the second Sunday, May 10. Sometimes in the past it has been changed to avoid conflicting with Mothers' Day, but in 2015 it has been impossible to find an alternative.

Who Wants to Do a Sleepover?

Saturday, April 4

Following Game Night on Saturday, April 4th, and leading into Easter morning's Sunrise Worship, some Friends are considering enjoying overnight fellowship at the Meetinghouse. We will only plan to have the sleepover if there is sufficient interest, so let Bronwyn know before Saturday the 4th, 220-3219 or BJQMohlke@gmail.com.

Women's Chair Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays 11am to noon

Women of all ages are welcome to this group. We gather in the meeting room for gentle, yet powerfully restorative movement, coordinated with breathing and inward concentration. Those who have practiced awhile can attest to the well-being it has brought to our mental, spiritual, and physical health—though we remain in “beginner’s mind,” always rediscovering the basics. We sit on chairs or stand, though some may want to be on the floor. No special clothing or equipment needed. Just come, or if you have questions ask Nancy Gabriel (339-7123/ntg2@cornell.edu.) We offer a donation to the teacher.



Midweek at the Burt House Resumes

Allen MacNeill, long-time member of Meeting, will be residing at the Burt House for the next few months. Allen is interested in Midweek Meeting and has offered to have the front door unlocked and the Meditation Room ready each Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM for any who wish to come. Thus, until further notice, Midweek Meeting will be held each Wednesday evening, using the usual format of 30 minutes worship followed by fellowship. Families with children are also welcome. There is a bookshelf in the Meditation Room with children’s books that could be helpful during the quiet worship period. Come and join us when you can.

Springtime Tea at the Dunham's

Saturday, April 18, 3-6p

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite Friends to their annual tea at their house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. Please don't bring anything! Stop by for a short visit or longer. All are welcome!

April 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Intergenerational Game Night

Saturday, April 4, 6-9p

Bring your games, if you have favorites, but bring yourself for sure. We will order pizza (and collect donations to cover the cost). Wallace Watson will also be sharing some activities on the solar system for those who are interested, and weather permitting he will set up a telescope for viewing Jupiter and its moons and perhaps a few other high overhead phenomena starting around 7:30. It would help to have an idea of how many will be coming, plus any dietary restrictions. Please contact Bronwyn, 220-3219 or BJQMohlke@gmail.com, if you would like some pizza.

See page 7 additional information about the possibility of sleeping over at the Meetinghouse.

Sunrise Meeting for Worship, followed by brunch

Sunday, April 5, 6-7a

The meetinghouse will be open by 5:45 for those who like to begin in deeper darkness to await the dawn. Potluck brunch after that will continue until it is time for Meeting for Worship at 10:30 as usual. Bring something to share and enjoy one another's company as Friends arrive and leave throughout the morning.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, April 12, Rise of Meeting

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

On Sundays

- 9:15a Multigenerational **worship**
- 9:30a Multigenerational **First Day School**
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:30a **Childcare (0-8 years old)**: attenders may exit the meetingroom when they so choose to attend childcare.

Quaker Witness Discussion

Sunday, April 19, 9-10:15a

Join us on the second floor of the Meetinghouse for a discussion of spirit-led action. Please see page 2 for more information.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, April 26, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share. All are invited for fellowship even if not bringing food.

ARCH Training

Sunday, April 26, After Brunch

Please see description on page 3. This is part of a series focusing on the issues, concerns & opportunities facing us and our loved ones in the last third of life. This month will focus on “vigiling.” All are welcome.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, April 29, 5p

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

IMM Retreat with Marcelle Martin

Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3

See page 6 for more information.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burt House, 227 N. Willard Way
- Sun 1:00p **Friends Bike Clinic** at the Meetinghouse (beginning April 19)