



Newsletter of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2015

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu
with message body as simply: `join`

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others 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

Love Wins

A selection of a few moments from our Quaker history on the occasion of the Supreme Court of the United State's decision regarding Obergefell v. Hodges.

— *Marin Clarkberg, newsletter editor*

"Surely it is the nature and quality of a relationship that matters: one must not judge it by its outward appearance but by its inner worth. Homosexual affection can be as selfless as heterosexual affection, and therefore we cannot see that it is in some way morally worse. [...] An act which expresses true affection between two individuals and gives pleasure to them both, does not seem to us to be sinful by reason alone of the fact that it is homosexual."

— *Towards a Quaker View of Sex, Friends Home Service Committee, London, 1963*

"Quaker gays are *Quaker*. Gays active in any community of faith are likely to enrich that faith in similar ways. Quaker gays witness to the Quaker way of life, and bring special strengths to that witness in their manner of practicing equality, nonviolence, community, celebration, and discipline. The gay identity is itself part of that witness, striving for wholeness and oneness in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus. The witness should be honored.

"Never in history has the Society of Friends needed more imagination and wisdom in demonstrating the possibility of living in that life and spirit which takes away the occasion of all wars. Learning new ways of approaching gender identity, and new ways for men and women to live and work separately and together in building the peaceable kingdom, is urgent for us all. The gays and lesbians among us can help us in our learning and in our doing. It is time for them to be freed from the stereotype of embattled victims fighting for the right to be what they are, and instead be accepted as coworkers in reweaving the social web for us all."

— *Elise Boulding, Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns keynote address, 1986*

"The IMMRSF, in deliberation on the subject of same-sex unions, celebrates and supports the diversity of caring human relationships. We accept for Clearness for Marriage under the care of the Meeting any loving, committed relationship between two adults."

— *Ithaca Monthly Meeting, Minute of February 13, 1995*

"Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our [gatherings and committee] work has been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together."

— *Central Committee of Friends General Conference, October 2004*

Pastoral Care

There are nearly always members of our community who would appreciate a friendly visit, especially those who are injured, ill, home-bound, or in long-term care facilities. Lately, however, the need has been too great to fill with the usual visiting volunteers. It does not take any special knowledge or training, simply the willingness to chat, sing, read aloud to, or silently worship with someone. If you feel you might be able to give the gift of your presence -- be that as a one time event or a recurring visit once or twice a month -- please contact Bronwyn Mohlke / 220-3219 / BJQMohlke@gmail.com

Powell House Weekend

Deliberate and Unafraid: A Weekend on Femininity and Strength with Helen Marie Staab & Natalie Braun.

August 28-30, 2015

Consider joining this retreat at Powell House, New York Yearly Meeting's retreat center in Old Chatham, New York.

The retreat leaders, Helen Marie Staab and Natalie Braun, were two of the YFIR interns who led youth retreats at Perry City Meeting a few years ago. Subsequently, Helen lived at the Burr House and worshiped with us at IMM.

For years, women have gathered at Powell House for an empowering and fulfilling weekend, holding each other, laughing, crying, and sharing. As society continues to grow and change in our understanding of gender, how do we create and celebrate that cherished space while embracing the diversity of the lived experiences amongst us? We invite Friends to come together to build a safe and affirming space in which we discuss and expand our ideas on femininity. From first wave feminism and the Stonewall riots to #yesallwomen and Beyonce, the nuances and intersections of the female experience give us much to draw strength from and explore. This weekend we will gather for worship sharing, singing, games, listening, and learning around the topic of femininity.

For more information and to register, visit powellhouse.org. IMM Scholarships may be available; talk to Mike Simkin, Treasurer, for more information.

Words clutter space!

Be drawn inward to your Root and dwell there, restored by inner springs, (wordless realities) . .

Words can be stones ricocheting against another's inward being. He/she is parched for the watering of Silence. . .

Let Silence well up from within, heart-stirrings which quicken you with peace.

Silence is a song within you!

It is not emptiness, nor a deprivation of speech. It is, indeed, your treasure.

Bind your Self to this new way of living, and unbind your Self from the adornment of speech.

There is no other way for you to learn of God so readily as by entering this Silence. . .

— Sparrow



Program Committee Invites Suggestions

The Program Committee arranges monthly discussions on a variety of topics related to "spiritual growth," broadly interpreted. They are held 9:00-10:15, usually on the third Sunday of the month, on the second floor of the Third Street Meeting House. We invite members and attenders to suggest topics and facilitators (including themselves) for the coming year. Contact committee convener Nancy Riffer (nancyriffer00@gmail.com). Thank you.

—Wallace Watson, Program Committee

June in IMM History

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

10 Years Ago (July 10, 2010)

A memorial minute for Glenn S. Mallison was read and approved.

25 Years Ago (June 12, 1995)

IMM approved putting out a basket once a month for collection of funds for Kitchen Cupboard. Previously Friends brought canned and packaged food donations once per month.

55 Years Ago (July 11, 1960)

Documents were received transferring the membership of Thor Rhodin and his four children from the Wilmington, DE Monthly Meeting to IMM.

After other business, Meeting turned its attention to a minute of concern for the witness and rededication to the peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends. It had been 300 years since George Fox made the first official statement of the Quaker peace testimony to King Charles II of England. Friends are called upon to take a simultaneous act of corporate witness at three levels: individual, the Meeting, and the Nation. The clerk will order extra copies of the minute with an attached blank to be checked and returned. It was suggested that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee plan a meeting within a month for Meeting's self-education. It was pointed out that Congress recently turned down a proposal for research on disarmament, and that fewer than 100 people in government are working on ways for disarmament. It was noted that the Board of Trustees at Cornell voted to no longer make ROTC compulsory in that the current Secretary of Defense considers compulsory ROTC to be unnecessary. (Virginia Cranch was recording secretary for these minutes).

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, June 14, 2015

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 06.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 14, 2015 at 12:19 P.M. 17 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship.

The Clerk recognized John Lewis and Annalisa Raymer for holding the gathering in the Light.

Clerk read from The Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen:

It is my growing conviction that in Jesus the mystical and the revolutionary ways are not opposites, but two sides of the same human mode of experiential transcendence. I am increasingly convinced that conversion is the individual equivalent of revolution. Therefore every real revolutionary is challenged to be a mystic at heart, and he who walks the mystical way is called to unmask the illusory quality of human society. Mysticism and revolution are two aspects of the same attempt to bring about radical change. No mystic can prevent himself from becoming a social critic, since in self-reflection he will discover the roots of a sick society. Similarly, no revolutionary can avoid facing his own human condition, since in the midst of his struggle for a new world he will find that he is also fighting his own reactionary fears and false ambitions.

2015 06.2 Nominating Committee

Meeting was asked to approve Jim Grant to serve on the Earthcare Committee. Steve Mohlke introduced Jim, who was present. Friends approved the nomination. @

Friends were asked to approve the laying down of the Meetinghouse Gardening Committee. Steve Mohlke reported on the history of the committee (aka the Children's Gardening Committee), which has been somewhat moribund. Nominating acknowledges that we still need to find ways to integrate children into the life of the Meeting and there is gardening work that needs to be done. Members who don't feel they need be recognized as a formal committee are currently doing this work.

Friends approved laying down the Meetinghouse Gardening Committee. @

2015 06.3 Melody Johnson

Melody read a letter (the text of which is attached) from Annie Patterson and Peter Blood requesting meeting sponsorship for their concert this coming October. This concert will be presented as a benefit. All monies raised will be used to capitalize a new fund that will provide financial support for nonprofit organizations that Pete and Toshi Seeger were deeply involved in, all of which align with Quaker values. Melody explained the nature of the concert and many of the details surrounding it, as well as requirements of sponsorship. She indicated other entities are being approached for sponsorship as well as IMM.

After questions and discussion, Friends approved the request for IMM's sponsorship of the Ithaca concert of Annie Patterson and Peter Blood this coming October. @

2015 06.4 Ministry and Worship

Marilyn Ray read a Memorial Minute for Mac Larsen.

Friends approved the Memorial Minute and joined together in silent worship. @

2015 06.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin delivered the report noting highlights related to contributions, income, donations and expenses. He included a list of comments related to the report and offered to distribute electronic copies as requested.

After questions and discussion, Friends received the report. @

2015 06.5 Other concerns

A Friend wondered if there were a way to recognize the work contributed by committee members as they lay down their committee work.

Friends commented, questioned and shared experiences.

Eighteen Friends settled into worship at 1:17P.M. After a few more minutes sharing memories of Mac Larsen, Meeting adjourned at 1:23. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on July 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Blair Jennings, Recording Clerk

Memorial Meeting for Mac Larsen

A Memorial Meeting welcoming all to celebrate the life of Charles "Mac" Larsen will be held in the manner of Friends (Quakers) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 17, 2015, at the Hector Meetinghouse (Ithaca Monthly Meeting's summer site), 5066 Perry City Road, Trumansburg, NY. A simple reception with summer fare will follow at 6:30 p.m. If you are unable to be present for the first half, please join in for the second.

Hector Meetinghouse is located 5 miles northwest of Ithaca on Perry City Road, off Route 96 and near Jacksonville Road. It is handicapped-accessible. Parking is only available on the street, however, advance drop off for elders, children, or those needing safety for any reason is also available.

Northside Community Celebration

The Second Annual community celebration will be at the Third Street Meetinghouse on **August 8th**, from 3 to 6 pm. There will be music, dancing, food, and children' activities. Volunteers needed!

— Karen Friedeborn

Women's Chair Yoga Mondays and Thursdays 11AM-noon

Our gentle, restorative practice focusing on women's health will continue through July and August. There may be days when too many of the regulars are away and the group won't meet, so it's good to text or call Nancy Gabriel, 607-339-7123, or Sue Perlgut, 607-227-3224. Call or e-mail Nancy if you'd like more information.

— Nancy Gabriel

Friendly Adult Supervision Needed

During the summer months when First Day School is not offered, children at Third Street gather for unstructured play, such as at the nearby playground. Adult presences are needed! Friends are encouraged to volunteer to supervise children on Sundays in July and August. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Meetinghouse.

— Melissa Blake, *Children and the Life of the Meeting*

July 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, July 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. (Note that this Meeting is scheduled for Mother's Day this year. No workable alternative dates could be found.)

Memorial Meeting for Mac Larsen Friday, July 17, 5:30p

See announcement, above.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, June 26, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 30, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at Third Street
- 10:45a **First Day School** attenders exit the meetingroom and gather for play or other activities.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burtt House, 227 N. Willard Way
- Sun 1:00p **Friends Bike Clinic** at the Meetinghouse; You bring your bike and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We bring tools and know-how.