



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 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 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

IMM Scholarship Fund

At the April Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, concern was expressed that many Friends are unfamiliar with the "Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund". This fund was established many years ago by Gail's family. She was a young woman rather new to Friends, who had benefited greatly from attending not just our Meeting, but also gatherings of the wider world of Friends. After her sudden and untimely death, the family wished to commemorate how much Gail had gained from her association with Friends by making it possible for others to have access to such enrichment.

Two or three members of Ministry and Worship constitute a subcommittee to receive requests for financial help to attend Quaker retreats, workshops, trainings, etc. The current scholarship subcommittee is Nancy Gabriel and Chuck Mohler. Criteria are not set in stone, but here are some of the guidelines:

- The intent of the fund is to permit our members and attenders to participate in gatherings which promote deepened faith and understanding, support for one's leadings, witness, or ministry, and offer fellowship with wider circles of Friends. Our experience is that IMM reaps rewards from what our inspired Friends bring back to us.
- We usually do not cover all the costs, especially e.g. for an entire family. Our support can usually be combined with aid from the Quaker organizations hosting the events—yearly and quarterly meetings, or institutions such as Woolman Hill, Powell House, Friends' General Conference, Pendle Hill, Friends' Conference on Religion and Psychology, etc. A rough formula is that the individual(s) pay one third, IMM offers one third, and other Quaker sources pay one third.
- Preference is given to those who have not received an IMM scholarship recently.
- IMM pays the full cost for a new member to attend a Powell House weekend.

The Scholarship Fund is now maintained entirely from money budgeted by the Meeting or received as designated contributions from Ithaca Friends. Rather than set a fixed limit, our practice has been to try to meet all requests at least partially, and to make an appeal to the whole Meeting when the Fund is running low.

We are making such an appeal now. In May the announcements come out for New York Yearly Meeting's annual gathering at Silver Bay, in the eastern Adirondacks, the last week in July. This family-friendly event draws many of us. It is a tremendous learning experience for newer Friends, a time for some extraordinary work by NYYM committees, and a chance for spiritual refreshment both in daily Meetings for Worship and in the natural beauty of the setting. IMM wants to facilitate participation for those for whom cost might be an insurmountable barrier.

Please think about expanding your Quaker world by attending such events, and also please consider sending a contribution earmarked for the Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund so we can all hear the reports from those who return.

— *Ministry and Worship Committee : Alexa Yesukevich, Annalisa Raymer, Antonia Saxon, Chuck Mohler, John Lewis, Marilyn Ray, Nancy Gabriel.*

May in IMM History

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

Note: Before 1982, IMM's fiscal year ended with the close of the Cornell academic year and May was the month for annual reports. Thus, this month's history column is limited to noteworthy minutes since 1985.

10 Years Ago (May 15, 2005)

Tom Brown reported on the visit with Christopher Sammond (General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting) on April 29th, at the Burt House. We found Christopher to be a gifted and deeply spiritual person, with long experience in clerking and conflict resolution. We enjoyed a dish-to-pass, and a frank and open discussion on Ithaca Monthly Meeting's life, and current conflicts. Christopher recommended several resources available to us through the regional and yearly meeting, including a willingness to return himself, to be of further service to us. We were grateful for this powerful meeting and Christopher's final message that we may find our solutions in worship together. [Note: Christopher did return later and clerked a threshing session for the Meeting.]

Bonnie Tyler suggested that an agenda, as it is known before-hand, be sent out to the Meeting [in advance] so that friends have some idea of the upcoming topics of discussion. A simple email could be sent to the list and an announcement made at the prior Meeting for Worship. The Assistant Clerk offered to work with the Clerk on this. We will try this for a period of time and see if friends find it helpful. [Note: Since this time or shortly after, it has been IMM's practice for the clerk to send out an advance agenda a few days before the business meeting each month.]

Advices and Queries

The following selections are taken from New York Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*. Copies of *Faith and Practice* are available in our library. The document can also be downloaded in full from the New York Yearly Meeting website.

Advices

1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.

15 Years Ago (May 8, 2000)

The Committee on Children and the Life of the Meeting reported on the generally successful year of First Day School, and the anticipated increase in the number of children and thus the need for more teachers to volunteer. Janis Kelly and Kyri Murdough reported on their experience as the first mentor and teenager to go through Meeting's "Out of the Nest and into the World" program. Kyri has completed about a third of the Quaker Basics curriculum and is preparing for her service project this summer. Meeting approved that CALM will ask for, and Treasurer will collect, designated contributions toward the approximately \$1000 required for participating in the Habitat for Humanity project at the clinic in Tutweiler, Mississippi.

30 Years Ago (May 14, 1985)

The Sanctuary Committee reported that nearly 300 people attended the ecumenical welcoming worship service (for Esperanza) on May 12. Esperanza will hold a press conference on May 14. The household arrangements (at the Burt House) seem to be going congenially and smoothly. Esperanza continues to feel stronger and to take on more activity.

Message from Ministry and Worship

Ministry and Worship would like to increase opportunities for fellowship after worship on First Days.

We would appreciate it if any Committee meetings after the rise of meeting would be scheduled for one of the upstairs rooms in the meetinghouse to keep the library/dining room free for fellowship. We appreciate your attention to this request.

Queries

5. Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?
6. Do our children receive the loving care of the meeting? Does the influence of the meeting promote their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Do we offer our young people opportunities for fellowship, for service, for religious instruction, and for participation in the life of the meeting?

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 12, 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 04.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 12, 2015. At 12:13pm, 15 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship.

The Clerk recognized Fell Cadwallader for holding the gathering in the Light.

Clerk read from London Yearly Meeting's Christian Faith and Practice a passage by Thomas Shilletoe, about his 1824 visit to the prison Spandau, in Berlin:

Whilst walking along, I was accosted by my friend the chief magistrate of the city, saying, "So you are about to make another visit to Spandau. I would wish you not to go again. Are you not afraid? Don't you know some of the prisoners murdered the last governor?" Although I received his counsel as a mark of his kindness towards me, I found it safest to say as little as possible in reply, having heard of this circumstance since our last visit, and that a bowl of scalding liquor had been thrown by one of the prisoners into the present governor's face; nevertheless this caution of the chief magistrate caused me, for a time, to feel keenly on the occasion, and to consider there was not only my own life, but that of my interpreter, the governor, and perhaps other attendants, at stake...these considerations, I found, without great watchfulness, were in danger of producing such agitation of mind as would be very unprofitable for me.

I had concluded, in the course of the night previous to our proceeding to Spandau, to empty my pockets of money, watch, pocketbook, and my penknife more particularly; for, by having my penknife about me, I might be the cause of furnishing them with the means of my own destruction; this I accordingly did. But on mature deliberation on the step I had thus taken, I was mercifully led to see that it was the effect of that departure from a full and entire reliance on God's arm of power, which the enemy was endeavouring to bring about in my mind. I sensibly felt the performance of this very act had produced weakness, causing the hands that had been made strong through the power of the mighty God of Jacob, rather to fall again. I, therefore, returned to my chamber, and replaced each of these articles as they were before, taking particular care that my penknife was not left behind.

2015 04.2 Children and the Life of the Meeting Committee (CALM). Melissa Blake presented a report about experiments for mitigating noise from upstairs activities. She proposed a Minute. Questions, affirmations, perceptions and suggestions were heard and considered. All in the room seemed in unity with the spirit of the minute though specific language raised some additional thoughts and questions. Friends approved the following minute:

After four years in the Third Street Meetinghouse, we have realized that it is very easy for sounds to travel to the Meeting Room from other places in the building. Our First Day School teachers are mindful of this and they encourage the children to be mindful of it, as well. But whenever, wherever there are people engaged in activities outside of the Meeting Room there are likely to be sounds audible in the Meeting Room. As a Meeting, we embrace a reasonable level of sound during Meeting for Worship as a sign of the aliveness and vibrancy of our multigenerational Meeting community. As individual worshippers, we can strive to create as much internal silence as possible for ourselves regardless of any outside distractions in the environment, putting our minds to work in prayerful ways, hearing our children who are practicing a form of worship of their own and lifting them up in Love; hearing the children and giving thanks for their lives; hearing the children and feeling their energy, which so often we ourselves lack, and their eagerness to share and again giving thanks and lifting their lives in Love. We want parents and their children to feel especially welcome at Meeting and not unduly worried about disrupting the worship.

Care of our children in our meetinghouse is an evolving process, and we remain open. For now, the Meeting entrusts any adults supervising the children with determining appropriate levels of sound for the activities. @

2015 04. 3 Ministry & Worship. Friends were originally asked to consider the low level of funds in the Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund. In the time between agenda distribution and meeting for worship with attention to business we learned this was not a problem; the scholarship fund is in fine shape. Friends are encouraged to donate to the Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund as they feel called throughout the year. @

Marilyn Ray presented a report about Earthcare concerns, Margaret McCasland's leading to serve as an "Earthcare Connector" and her desire to engage with a Committee of Care from Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Ministry & Worship asked Meeting to receive the report, and to approve a Minute for Margaret to travel under the care of the Meeting as an "Earthcare Connector." Friends received the report and approved the Minute. @

2015 04. 4 Nominating. Garry Thomas brought forth the nominations of Michelle Hitz and Rebecca Gray for two-year terms of service on the CALM committee. Friends approved the nominations.

Nominating brought forward a second report describing the findings of a working group tasked with investigating the purpose, activity level and continued need for the Publicity Committee. The working group recommends and nominating concurs that the Publicity Committee be laid down. Nominating has agreed to take on the responsibility for identifying individuals or committees to distribute pertinent information about Ithaca Monthly Meeting worship and/or events to various directories and publications. A

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concern was expressed about potential cracks, leading all to seek and suggest ways of partnering with various committees to make sure that information does not fall through them. Friends approved the recommendation to lay down Publicity Committee. @

2015 04.5 Treasurer's Report. Clerk introduced the Treasurer's Report for April and indicated that Mike Simkin, treasurer reports no special concerns. No oral report was delivered this month. Friends received the report. @

2015 04.6 Other Concerns. Clerk invited Friends to share any concerns.

A concern was raised about the Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund, asking if there were a way to raise awareness of this fund among meeting members. In addition, it was suggested that members be made aware of the correct person to contact and/or process by which funds can be accessed and utilized. The concern was referred to Ministry & Worship. @

A concern was raised suggesting Ithaca Monthly Meeting might partner with other faith communities to jointly source and utilize solar power in Tompkins County. The concern was referred back to the Earthcare Witness Committee, who will propose the formation of an ad hoc working group comprised of members from other relevant committees. @

A concern was raised about the perceived disconnection between the Young Adult Friends group and Ithaca Monthly Meeting. It was queried whether the relationship between the two groups could be more connected so meeting members would be better aware of Young Adult Friends' activities. Ministry & Worship will hear the concern and report back to meeting for business. @

Seventeen Friends settled into worship at 2:00pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on May 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Jennings

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.

Voices Spring Concert

Sunday, May 10 at 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Enjoy a great selection of music from around the world. This will be our last concert under leadership of Dr. Baruch Whitehead. Come and help us thank him for the exceptional musical journey he has provided. What a great Mother's Day activity! Ellie Rosenberg, Wendy Wolfe and Melody Johnson will be singing.

The concert will be at the First Baptist Church, 309 N Cayuga St. Advance tickets \$12 are available from chorus members or via <http://voicesspring2015.brownpapertickets.com/>. Tickets will be \$15 at the door..

May 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 10, 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.)

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, May 24, Rise of Meeting

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

Spring Gathering, May 15-17

Regional Quaker gathering at Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY (near Elmira). See <http://www.quakerwny.com/?q=node/176>

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, May 28, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a **First Day School** attenders exit the meetingroom and join their classes upstairs.

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;. You bring your bike and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We bring tools and know-how.