



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

August 2016

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Angela Hopkins
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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

Opportunity for Fellowship & Reflection: Meeting-wide Book Read

Not so long ago if someone had called me a racist I would have kicked and screamed in protest. "But I'm a good person", I would have insisted, "I don't see color, I don't have a racist bone in my body!" I would have felt insulted and misunderstood and stomped off to lick my wounds. That's because I thought that being a racist meant not liking people of color or being a name-calling bigot.

So begins the book, *Waking Up White*, by Debbie Irving. What we begin to realize, along with Debby, is that being a racist can simply mean being unaware—unaware of the advantages of being white in a dominant white culture and how that culture shapes everything we perceive, do, and say: unaware how race holds us all captive. In September, the Education Subcommittee of IMM's ad hoc Racial Justice Committee will be forming small groups, using an on-line registration form, to read and reflect together on *Waking Up White*.

Would you like to become better acquainted, to really know others in Meeting while simultaneously increasing our awareness of systemic racism, even within the Society of Friends? We invite you to strengthen the fellowship within IMM and move us toward building a beloved community by joining a book group.

Watch for further information. If you have questions, please contact committee members Ruth Yarrow, convener, 206 512-0688, Carolyn Kenyon, Susan Wolf, Ellie Rosenberg, or Karen Friedeborn.

— Carolyn Kenyon

Angela Hopkins is New Burt House Caretaker

Starting August 1, Angela Hopkins has agreed to become the interim Burt House caretaker, replacing Violet Gongarovs and Brian Parks, who provided notice two months ago that they would be leaving the Burt House around August 1. At the February Business Meeting, IMM approved providing Angela hospitality at the Burt House for a six-month period following the end of her commitment to Pendle Hill. During these six months Angela and IMM will have the opportunity to explore our common ministry. Angela generously offered to become the interim caretaker during this time and the Burt House Committee, after discussions with Angela, has gratefully accepted her offer.

To reach Angela concerning Burt House matters, you can e-mail her at angelaforestglenn@yahoo.com or by calling the Burt House phone at 273-5421 (see left for reference). For matters that are more time-urgent, you can use Angela's cell phone number, (215) 510-5334.

— Tom Brown, for the Burt House Committee

3rd Annual Northside Community Celebration Volunteers Sought

This celebration is Saturday, August 13th, 3-6 pm. Food, music and children's activities. Please contact Karen Friedeborn if you can bring food or volunteer during the event. You may contact her at karen.friedeborn@gmail.com or via phone at 280-5208.

7th Annual Ithaca MobilePack

Help pack 300,000 nutritionally-balanced meals for starving children worldwide!

*"Hunger is the world's greatest solvable problem."
— World Food Program*



September 22-24, 2-hr packing shifts

This year's packing site in Cayuga Heights at the First Congregational Church, 309 Highland Road.

What is Ithaca MobilePack?

Ithaca MobilePack is a diverse group of Ithacans, working in conjunction with Feed My Starving Children (a Christian organization), which raises funds each year to purchase and pack food for children of all faiths around the world.

How you can help...

Make a donation. Each FMSC meal costs just 22¢ to produce. That means we must raise \$66,000 for 300,000 meals. Donations of all amounts will help. Please consider donating! Two ways to donate:

- Online at www.ithacamobilepack.org
- Send a check made payable to "Ithaca MobilePack FMSC" to Ithaca MobilePack, PO Box 265, Ithaca NY 14851

Volunteer. 1,500 volunteers are needed to pack the meals. Come pack individually or as a group. Packing times are two-hour shifts. Register online starting late August www.IthacaMobilePack.org

For more details, go to www.ithacamobilepack.org. For questions E-mail: IthacaMobilePack@gmail.com or call Nancy at 607-273-9017.

— *Gina Varrichio*

Backpacks for School

It is once again that time of year when many children in our region prepare to return to school. Some of these children are unable to afford the items on their back-to-school lists and are in danger of starting the school year without the tools they need to succeed. Enter the Cornell Elves Summer Backpack Program. Local volunteers provide funds and materials to fill backpacks with school supplies for distribution to children in need of them.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has provided supplies for the last five school years. In total, IMM has been able to distribute 57 filled backpacks to children in our community. This year, we will be providing backpacks to the Southern Cayuga School District, which has a large number of children in need of them. We have committed to covering every 5th grader on their list, and more if we're able.

If you would like to donate towards the purchase of school supplies on behalf of our meeting, you have a few options:

- 1) Mail a check made out to Gina Varrichio (to enable me to spend the accumulated funds on the supply items requested by Southern Cayuga) to Cornell Backpack Program, c/o Gina Varrichio, 166 Crescent Place, Ithaca, NY 14850. If you will be mailing a check, I would appreciate a "pledge" email wherein you let me know how much you intend to donate and that I should be looking for a check in the mail.
- 2) Give me a check or cash at Meeting for Worship. Buying and filling these backpacks will likely be \$45 to 60 per backpack. You are invited to donate the full cost of supplying a backpack or any other amount. Smaller donations will be combined to purchase other supplies and any remaining funds will be donated directly to the program to enable them to fill in any gaps they have.
- 3) Do the actual school shopping yourself and donate a stocked backpack to me in lieu of a direct monetary contribution. Please email me for the appropriate supply list.

The deadline for monetary donations is August 21 and the deadline for backpack/supply donations is August 28.

— *Gina Varrichio*

August in IMM History

Note: In recent decades Business Meetings often were not held in August. When they were held, no items were found that were historically noteworthy. August Business Meetings were held as needed as early as 1946 but the only items found of general interest were those below from 1966.

50 Years Ago (August 8, 1966)

In the matter of whether IMM should have elders, Grace Mekeel suggested that Meeting give up elders for a year on a trial basis, and also consult with the Quarterly Meeting as an important step in this process. Some others felt there was no need for Ministry and Counsel to guide the spiritual life of the meeting.

Whether IMM should take any responsibility for the Hector Meeting House and adjoining burial ground was discussed. Grace Mekeel pointed out that the land was a gift from her step-grandfather and mother in 1901 to Friends. If the Meetinghouse is used for any other purpose it [at that time] shall revert to the heirs. There is now (1966) an Executive Meeting (Hector) and a committee has charge of the property. Friends discussed whether a group from Ithaca Meeting might obtain title to the property and keep it up. There are legal aspects which would have to be looked into. Edwin and Marjorie Burt have expressed the desire to be buried in the burial ground. Money for keeping the grass cut, etc., is now supplied by the Olivers and Grace Mekeel and Eleanor Beavers, whose daughter is buried in the burial ground. Friends asked the overseers and the facilities committee to look into the matter and report to the Meeting. [IMM obtained clear title to the Hector Meetinghouse property in 1978.]

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian

Gratitude

On behalf of the “elders” of the Meeting, I would like to express a great thanks to Bronwyn and the ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation & Help) committee for their loving welcome to us all at a grand Tea Party earlier in July. It was more than a bit overwhelming to see so many Friends whom I had never met, but the welcome was clear and joyful.

Many thanks!

Blessings to all,

Helen Schantz

Multigenerational Retreat at Hector, Aug 26-28

We will once again be holding our Multigenerational Camping Retreat at the Hector Meetinghouse. We will camp there on Friday and Saturday August 26 and 27 and have shared meals for Saturday breakfast through Sunday brunch.

We will begin on Friday at 4pm, with camping set-up and dinner preparations. A potluck supper will happen at 6pm, to which all are welcome! After supper we'll have time for singing and worship around a campfire, until bedtime!

Saturday will see us sharing a communal breakfast, relaxing on the beautiful and tranquil Meetinghouse grounds, and then splitting into the “goers” and the “stayers.” Goers might go berry-picking and swimming on Saturday, while stayers do crafts. Saturday evening will look much like Friday. If you have other ideas or requests for how we might spend our time together, please pass them along!

Friends are welcome to come for the whole retreat or any part. We will end with a dish to pass brunch after Meeting at the Hector Meetinghouse on Sunday, August 28.

— Melissa Blake

Supporting Hospicare through Women Swimmin'

August 13th will mark the 13th year of a great Ithaca tradition: Women Swimmin' for Hospicare! The funds raised through Women Swimmin' help Hospicare provide compassionate, skilled end-of-life care to our friends and neighbors throughout Tompkins and Cortland counties.

Consider supporting Hospicare through this event. I will be crossing the lake. **Melissa Travis Dunham** is doing her swim in a pool. **Bronwyn Mohlke** will be providing support for lake swimmers from the shore.

Please visit womenswimmin.org to donate or for more information.

— Marin Clarkberg

(whose donation page is womenswimmin.org/marin)

No Minutes

Because Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was not held in July, there are no Minutes from July to be included in this newsletter.

Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon

"We call on the teacher within" to restore us in mind & heart, body & spirit through gentle movement and centered breathing. Renewed, we move outward to bring wholeness to our world. In summer it sometimes happens that there are too few to meet, so check before coming for the first time. Check with Nancy Gabriel, 339-7123 call or text; No special gear required.

Eco-cruise likely to be Monday August 15

The Mv Haendel has been repaired and the Floating Classroom is again floating around the southern reaches of Cayuga Lake. Many Friends expressed an interest in the cruise we had been planning for July, so I hope that many of you will be able to join ICAN (the Interfaith Climate Action Network) and the IMM Earthcare Committee for a cruise with a special focus on how climate change is affecting our lake. It will most likely be from 5-7pm Monday, August 15. Details forthcoming! Questions? Margaret 607-216-1091, margaret@mccaslands.com.

— Margaret McCasland

August 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse Summer Sundays

Weekly summer worship at the Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road, continuing into September. Meetings begin at 10:00. All are welcome. Dreia Spies is coordinating, and will be happy to answer questions.

Remembrance: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Tuesday, August 9, 6p

There will be a one hour silent vigil (rain or shine) seated around the Peace Pole in front of the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way. This vigil will mark the 71st anniversary of the United States' dropping of the first nuclear bomb on Hiroshima (August 6), and the second nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan (August 9). This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 71 years ago at the instant of these blasts, and of those who suffered and died from their injuries. All are welcome.

3rd Annual Northside Community Celebration Saturday, August 13, 3-6p

Come to the Third Street Meetinghouse to celebrate our neighborhood community. There will be food, music and children's activities. As noted on page 1, volunteers are still needed. Please contact Karen Friedeborn (karen.friedeborn@gmail.com, 280-5208), if you can bring food or volunteer during the event.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, August 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.

Newsletter Deadline Thursday, August 25, 5p

Please send your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg at clarkberg@cornell.edu, or 150 Giles Street, Ithaca NY 14850.

Multigenerational Retreat at Hector Friday, August 26 through Sunday, August 28

Join us at Hector Meetinghouse for some or all of this time together. See page 3 for more information.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, August 28, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

Peace Witness & Social Justice Committee Sunday, August 28, Rise of Meeting

Upstairs, Third Street Meetinghouse This is an open committee. All are welcome to come and hear what we are working on. Current activities include AVP (Alternative to Violence) workshops in Elmira Prison, work on housing alternatives for those coming out of jail or prison, transportation for persons who have a relative or friend in the County Jail and need a ride to get to the jail, and immigrant support. Please join us.

On Sundays

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:20a **First Day School** gathers upstairs at Third Street.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a **First Day School** attenders enter the meetingroom for intergenerational Meeting for Worship.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burt House, 227 N. Willard Way