



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

**February 2016**

## **IMM CONTACTS**

[ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### **Meetinghouse:**

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850  
607-229-9500

### **Clerk:**

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244  
[clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)  
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

### **Assistant Clerks:**

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778  
[mlr17@cornell.edu](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)  
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### **Treasurer:**

Mike Simkin  
607-387-5174 • [mes13@cornell.edu](mailto:mes13@cornell.edu)  
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

### **Ministry & Worship:**

Chuck Mohler  
607-539-6454 • [clm11@cornell.edu](mailto:clm11@cornell.edu)

### **Pastoral Care:**

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849  
[ewy310@gmail.com](mailto:ewy310@gmail.com)

### **Childcare Requests:**

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024  
[ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com)

### **Burt House, 227 N Willard Way**

Violet Goncarovs & Brian Parks •  
[BurtHouse@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:BurtHouse@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)  
607-273-5421 • 607-379-2379 (cell)

### **Listserv:**

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

[IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)

## **Ithaca is going to the White Privilege Conference**

Just a reminder that Friends who want to attend the 2016 White Privilege Conference, April 14-17, in Philadelphia PA – should register now. The conference is expected to fill up fast! Friends must register through the FGC website to get a reduced registration rate. If needed, Friends are encouraged to seek financial assistance through their monthly meeting and New York Yearly Meeting, and may also apply for a scholarship from Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting. If you would like to apply for financial assistance, please send an email to Nancy Gabriel ([ntg2@cornell.edu](mailto:ntg2@cornell.edu)) immediately. State why you want to go and what kind of work you anticipate doing in Ithaca when you return from the conference. To find out more about the conference, go to <http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/>

So far there are at least 22 adults going from Ithaca and hopefully, a group of 8-10 youth sponsored by our meeting. Friends are collaborating with other groups working for racial justice - Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), White Allies Against Structural Racism and the Multicultural Resource Center.

The next meeting of the Ithaca chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is Monday, January 25th, 6-8:30 pm at the Quaker Meetinghouse, 120 Third St. Go here to learn more <http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org>

The next meeting of White Allies Against Structural Racism is Feb 11th, 6-8:30 pm at the Quaker Meetinghouse.

Please join the conversation and meet others in our community working for social justice.

— *Karen Friedeborn*

## **Donations sought for the IMM fund to send Ithacans to the White Privilege Conference**

The good news is that the donation given to IMM last Fall to support Ithacans who wish to participate in the seventeenth annual White Privilege Conference (“WPC 17”) in Philadelphia has allowed sixteen people to join the even larger number of Ithacans who will be attending. The application letters have inspired those of us on the ad hoc committee overseeing the allocation of the gift.

The bad news is: the special fund is nearly depleted. It is hard to apply a “cost-benefit analysis” to the good will and call-to-action our grants have generated. Only time will tell how much effective action will be generated when all these people return home with new energy to combat inequality and racism in our community.

We hope that more Friends will join the initial donor in contributing to IMM’s designated fund. Please send contributions to Mike Simkin with “WPC17” in the memo line, before the end of February.

— *Nancy Gabriel (coordinator), Karen Friedeborn, Kathleen Gale, Ruth Yarrow*

## An Opportunity to Serve

Do you like to cook for others? Do you enjoy working in the kitchen with friends? Have you experienced the satisfaction of serving a meal to a group of hungry teenagers? Four times a year, after report cards come out, the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program has a family dinner at the meeting house for the purpose of recognizing individual students for their academic progress. Ithaca Friends prepare and serve the meals for the students and their family members. The next PSMP dinner is Monday, February 8, from 5 to 7pm.

We are looking for Friends who are willing to do any one of the following:

- cook mac & cheese or spaghetti (we have money to pay for ingredients)
- bake cookies
- lift heavy dishwasher trays into the dishwasher
- help with clean-up

The Paul Schreurs Memorial Program provides academic, personal, and emotional support to under-served youth who have potential and show interest in education and/or job training beyond high school. The Program works with all youth who have significant barriers to academic success yet show an interest in overcoming these barriers. Most of the students referred to the program are youth of color. This provides a unique opportunity to address many of the issues that face the community of color and inspire youth to work together to overcome negative expectations and academic stigmas.

If this sounds interesting to you, or you just want to know more about the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program, contact me at [clkenyon09@gmail.com](mailto:clkenyon09@gmail.com).

— *Carolyn Kenyon*

## Paying For Youth to Attend Powell House, the Quaker Conference and Retreat Center

A Powell House youth conference is described as "...a place to be safe and open, a time to rest and reflect, and a group in which to feel deep relationships." (see [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org)). Many conferences for grades 4 & 5, 6-8, and High School take place on weekends throughout the year, and they get rave reviews!

CALM wants you to know that money need not be a barrier. A youth conference usually costs \$125 but first-time attenders automatically receive a \$30 discount. Financial aid is also available from Powell House. They say, "You tell us how much you are able to pay. We can run the program with little money, but it is tough without any kids!" A parent can earn \$90 towards the program by volunteering in the kitchen for the weekend. In addition to all that, funds are available from IMM. To apply to the Gail Donnen White Scholarship fund, speak to a member of Ministry and Worship. CALM is also a source—speak to any CALM member. Let's get our kids to Powell House!

— *Melissa Blake*

## AVP: What Happened to Community Workshops?

Many of you may wonder what happened to the community workshops that were so much on our minds a few years ago. A bit of background will put things in context. In 2008, Kathleen Gale and I were working to rebuild the program at Elmira Correctional Facility. Just as the program was getting off the ground, it was closed down due to the lack of a prison staff advisor.

Kathleen and I took this opportunity to direct our energies to building workshops in the AVP community. With the invaluable help of Nancy Gabriel, we made contact with many agencies, worship communities, organizations, and businesses in the Ithaca community. Our hope was that AVP might be one path toward healing the Ithaca community after tragic confrontations between the community of color and the police. We hoped to reach out to community residents and have them experience the amazing magic that can happen in an AVP workshop.

As we worked to prepare for our first workshop, we discovered several things. Finding a place to hold a weekend workshop that would be available Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning was a challenge. Most available spaces were expensive to rent. And organizing the logistics for holding the workshop while at the same time working to plan the workshop activities was overwhelming.

We had amazing support from the Meeting, with people bringing delicious food to share for dinner. However, the logistics of getting the food to the workshop location was at times difficult, and setting up for meals and cleaning up afterward were additional tasks that we had to take on. We had to provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Buying food was an additional expense and the facilitators had to do the planning for those meals and purchase the food or find donations.

The community involvement we hoped for didn't materialize. The participants who signed up for the workshops were largely professionals who hoped to gain something they could use in their agencies or with their clients. The time commitment needed to complete a full workshop discouraged people and led to people signing up and then not showing up. The numbers of people signing up declined as the workshop series progressed, and we found ourselves without the minimum number of participants required to do an effective workshop.

We did have successes. We trained a small group of facilitators who have continued to do AVP work. We renewed interest in AVP in Ithaca. But it was disheartening to flounder amidst the difficulties after our high hopes.

After about three years of struggling to keep the community workshops going, Kathleen and I were invited back to Elmira Correctional Facility to reinstate the program there. We redirected our focus toward this end, invited in new facilitators (Gina Varrichio among them) and the program there is now thriving. However, keeping that program running well requires a lot of effort, and there is simply not enough energy and time to go around.

*AVP continued on page 3*

There is renewed interest in community workshops in connection with the idea of initiating an AVP program at the county jail. It might be possible to hold workshops in cooperation with OAR for people returning to the community after spending time in jail. There are hopes that AVP workshops could help mend relationships between law enforcement and the community.

But reinstating community workshops would need a broader base of support from the Ithaca community. Planning a community workshop is beyond the scope of the facilitators currently working with prison programs, and this is currently all the active facilitators living in Ithaca.

The good news is that planning for a community workshop need not be done by the facilitators! Members of the Ithaca community can do that work: coordinating the planning, finding a space, deciding on simple menus, buying the food and having it delivered, setting up and cleaning up before and after meals. There is no AVP training required. The facilitators can then focus their energies on planning and carrying out the workshop.

Perhaps through Area Congregations Together or some other co-operative network, community workshops can be reinstated.

— Susan Wolf

## Let Me Hear You

We are all called to be ministers! In our Meeting's Friends tradition, we do not have a pastor or minister to deliver a sermon when we come to worship at the meetinghouse. Each of us might, at any time, be called upon to stand and minister to those gathered in worship.

When we are called to stand and give vocal ministry, think of Jesus preaching to the multitudes. Think of George Fox speaking outdoors before the crowds that came to hear him. Think of the pastor in a programmed Meeting standing before a congregation. Lift your head. Speak out forthrightly and strongly so all can hear. Share your message with everyone, not just with the few who sit nearby.

When those of us who use the assistive listening devices turn the volume up and up to try and catch the words of those who speak so softly, the feedback from the device and the input of every little rustle, cough, sigh, and creak, so amplified, drowns out any words that are spoken. We all want to share in the ministry of each person who rises to speak in Meeting for Worship.

— Susan Wolf

*Ask always how this moment is to be given,  
listening interiorly underneath all that you do.*

*Giving out of this underground stream of God  
increases tenderness in the world.*

*It does not matter  
that you are enclosed at home.*

*Being part of the tenderness of God  
takes you everywhere!*

*Love remains  
when all else seems useless, or undone.*

*You are so quick to say: "I should have done - "  
as if the accomplishment were the cure.*

*Undone things. . . incompleteness. . .  
these need tender addressing, too.*

*There is that in you that always seeks a rounding off,  
a finishing, a certain accomplishment.*

*These are not proper goals.*

*The incomplete, lived in tenderness,  
is manifest with love.*

*Be at peace.*

— Sparrow



## January in IMM History

A look back at our history through the Minutes.

### 10 Years Ago (February 12, 2006)

At a special Called Meeting of IMMRSEF, INC, the 25 members of the Corporation present approved a change to the Meeting's by-laws stating that in the event of dissolution, all remaining property of IMMRSEF, after payment of any expenses, would be turned over to NYYM or another religious corporation related to the Society of Friends.

### 15 Years Ago (February 12, 2001)

Graham O and Karina Jolles were welcomed into membership.

### 20 Years Ago (February 12, 1996)

IMM approved the procedure now used to bring forth recommendations for the Nominating Committee. This consists of an ad hoc committee each year consisting of the clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, and a representative from Trustees and Ministry and Worship.

### 30 Years Ago (February 10, 1986)

The First Day School and committee was working on a major project to send school supplies to Nicaragua, as part of a broader AFSC effort. The ongoing nurturing of our young people's ability to participate in Meeting for Worship was also reported on.

### 55 Years Ago (February 12, 1951)

Harrop Freeman was asked to take IMM's concerns about worshipping in a war memorial (Anabel Taylor Hall) to the Board of Control of CURW. The concern included having a war memorial as a religious building, and the use of pictures, plaques, and other references to war inside the building. It was to be made clear that although Friends have decided to try worshipping in the new building when it opens, it will be difficult and perhaps impossible for some Friends.

There was discussion about which Yearly Meeting, if any, that IMM should join.

### 70 Years Ago (February 11, 1946)

Reports on the boxes recently sent to Europe: "There were two letters from Anna Anderson of Stavanger, Norway containing much useful information and expressing great appreciation for our help. Martha Teele read a fine letter from the family in Holland to whom boxes had been sent. And Alice Dart read an equally splendid letter from our French Friend. Apparently all parcels are going through in good condition and with fair regularity."

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

## Estate Planning Clinic

Cornell Law School is introducing a new clinic in the Spring of 2016. The Cornell University Law School Estate Planning Clinic will assist those who do not have access to an estate planning attorney. The Clinic will provide clients with a basic estate plan which includes; a last will and testament, a living will, health care proxy and a power of attorney. This plan will be tailored according to the client's wishes. Law students will work under the supervision of qualified attorneys who specialize in trusts and estates.

Clients do not have to be employed by Cornell, but they must qualify under the Clinic's eligibility criteria, as these services are entirely free of charge. If you, or anyone you know might be interested in completing their estate planning with the Cornell University Estate Planning Clinic, please reach out to Susan Tosto or Erica Russell at 607-255-4196 to discuss the eligibility criteria and outline the next steps.

— Susan Wolf

## Fur Friends

soft silkiness that covers their backs  
kneading of a blanket to make a nest to relax  
sly snake eyes in the heat of the sun  
playful soulful eyes when the working day is done  
helpless abandon as they lay with you in bed  
a commanding meow as they wish to be fed  
rhythmic warm purr on a cold winters day  
flipping and pawing in the midst of their play  
howling and scowling when it's time for a bath  
snagging arm's flesh, the result of their wrath  
fastidious cleaning of their claws and their jowls  
a midnight concerto of roaring ghost cat howls  
ravenous fur pups gorging, then licking their dish  
they jump up in your lap with a cat food kiss  
guarding wise countenance of a watchful sphinx  
a switch of the tail, and a loving cat wink

Christopher Dale Church  
(Mr. Clean)

## Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December January 10, 2016

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Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Assistant Clerks: Marilyn Ray, John Lewis

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.)

#### 2016 01.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and for the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF Inc., on January 10, 2016. A sign-in sheet was circulated. At 12:20 pm, 34 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship.

Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees and President of the Corporation, introduced the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

#### 2016 01.2 Annual Meeting of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated.

Signatures indicate that the following people were in attendance: Melissa Blake, Tom Brown, Fell Cadwallader, Marin Clarkberg, Richard Crepeau, Marion DaGrossa, Karen Friedeborn, Nancy Gabriel, Kathleen Gale, Chris Gartlein, Ginny Gartlein, Nancy Hillegas, Blair Jennings, Melody Johnson, Carolyn Kenyon, John Lewis, Ed Lisbe, Margaret McCasland, Charles Mohler, Bronwyn Mohlke, Steve Mohlke, Nancy Norton, Laura Peters, Carl Peterson, Marilyn Ray, Annalisa Raymer, Karen Reixach, Nancy Riffer, Elizabeth Schneider, Lenora Schneller, Pat Sewell, Michael Simkin, Garry Thomas, Gina Varrichio, Wallace Watson, Shirley Way, Emily Williams Yesukevich, Susan Wolf, Alexa Yesukevich.

- 1) Marilyn Ray read President's Annual Report for 2015 which highlighted issues relating to the Burt House, the Third Street Meetinghouse, and the Hector Meetinghouse.
- 2) Nancy Hillegas, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation, asked Marilyn Ray to read the Secretary's Report for 2015 that confirmed that corporation meetings and processes were in compliance with legal requirements.
- 3) Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Meeting and of the Corporation, gave the end of the fiscal year budget report. The budget request for donations of \$60,027 was exceeded

by \$3349 (as we received \$63,376), and actual income for the 2015 fiscal year exceeded our expenses by \$2651. The \$2651 will be transferred to General Fund Reserve.

Meeting received the reports.

This ended the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. @

#### 2014 01.3 Annual Reports

Antonia Saxon, Clerk, invited Friends to enter worship. Clerk recognized Steve Mohlke who was holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read from The Epistles of George Fox:

*Owe nothing to any man but love, that every one of you may be adorned with a meek and quiet spirit, which is with the Lord of great price: and be endued with wisdom from on high, which is pure and peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, and full of mercy and good works; let the fruits of this wisdom appear among you all, and then you will all be gentle and easily entreated one of another.*

Clerk recognized that the reading of annual reports is both rich and time-consuming, and invites Friends to share their thoughts on our process.

Friends presented the annual reports for the following committees: Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support, Burt House, Children & the Life of the Meeting (CALM), Earthcare, Greeters, Hector Meeting House, Hospitality, Ministry & Worship, Neighborhood Outreach, Newsletter, Nominating, Pastoral Care, Peace Witness & Social Justice (presenting a single combined report from the two committees), Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Elmira Area Council, Program, Third Street Meetinghouse, and Young Friends.

Friends received the annual reports. @

#### 2014 01.4 Other concerns

A Friend wondered how programs will unfold without an established Program Committee. Ministry & Worship may take up the concern.

Twenty-six Friends settled into worship at 1:50 pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on February 14, 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk*

## Talk on Nuclear War and What To Do About It February 8, 4:30p

You are invited to attend "The Growing Danger of Nuclear War and What We Can Do About It" on Monday, Feb. 8, 4:30 pm, Lewis Hall Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell. Ira Helfand, MD, Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, will address the catastrophic humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, including new research on climate change, and the Humanitarian Pledge to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide, supported by 139 nations. Contact: Ruth Yarrow 206-512-0688.

## Superbowl with Quakers, February 7, 6p

Meeting with attention to football: the Dunhams' annual Superbowl party at 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. This is a fun time to socialize with F/friends and watch the "Big Game"... or ignore the game and just socialize. Pizza will be provided. Please bring other finger food or drinks to share. An RSVP by Feb 5 is helpful but not strictly required: 277-9599, Mtravis823@yahoo.com or C\_J\_dunham@yahoo.com.

## 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. Check with Nancy Gabriel for questions, 339-7123 call or text; or just come; no special gear required.

# February 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

## Growing in Spirit Through Social Action Thursday, February 4, 3p

Whether you have contemplated taking action for social justice, or been an activist for many years, we invite you to join us in a group "care committee" where each of us will share our challenges, discouragement, experiences out of our comfort zone, and our joys and personal growth experienced through social activism. This group will meet once a month beginning February 4 and remain open for friends and attenders to join at any time. If you might be interested in this, please contact either Carolyn Kenyon <clkenyon09@gmail.com> or Karen Friedeborn at <karen.friedeborn@gmail.com>.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, February 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.

## Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, February 28, Rise of Meeting

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

## Living Well ARCH Discussion Sunday, February 21, Rise of Meeting

Lunch will be provided before exploring the topic, *Achieving Tranquility in the Elder Years*, with Betsy Root. For some folks, be-

ing happy in the later years just flows naturally out of a life well lived. For others, coming to grips with our own mortality poses challenges that we must deal with before resting contentedly in our final years. Betsy will share some of her experience in reconciling matters from her past as well as the unique perspectives she believes we all gain with "old age." She will invite her audience to share their wisdom in challenges they have resolved, or some they may still struggle with.

This is part of the ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help) discussion series that will continue through April on third Sundays.

## Newsletter submissions due Thursday, February 25, 5p

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

## Last Friday Supper Friday, February 26, 6p

You are invited to a potluck supper at the meetinghouse on the last Friday of the month from January through March. There will be one big dish (perhaps a hearty soup) to share. Supplement with your dish-to-pass, and feel free to bring store-bought deli food if you don't want to cook. Find warmth in fellowship and feasting with Friends!

## 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 Burr House, 227 N. Willard Way