



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

June 2016

IMM CONTACTS

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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

The Future of the Burt House

The Ad Hoc Burt House Committee continues to meet to consider visions for future use of the Burt House, the house on Willard Way given to the Meeting by Ned and Marjorie Burt. At present, the house is home to Violet Goncarovs and Brian Parks, who are serving as Friends-in-Residence and who are finishing up their term this summer; Ambrose Ngayinoko Lumanikio, whose progress is well known to the Meeting through reports from Garry Thomas and the Ad Hoc Immigrant Support Committee; Yokasta and Dylan, whom the Meeting has housed for the last several months and who will be leaving at the end of June; and Shirley Way, a member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting and an employee of AVP (Alternatives to Violence Program) New York State, which rents office space from the Burt House. Earlier this year, the Meeting offered a six-month residence at the Burt House to Angela Hopkins, a released Friend traveling in the ministry, and she will soon move in.

The Committee has recently learned of two groups working on separate proposals for the Burt House.

The first proposal envisions using the house as a retreat center. The house would be offered as sojourning space for short-term retreats of days or weeks, a use that would be combined with retreats offering support for Friends of Color led by Angela Hopkins. The program focuses on recognition of the house's special sense of refuge.

Burt House, continued on page 2

Spending Time with the Children of the Meeting

Summer is a wonderful time to be in Ithaca! And if you will be here, won't you consider spending some time with the young people of our Meeting? CALM (the Children in the Life of the Meeting Committee) is looking for one Friendly Adult Presence to join us upstairs each Sunday throughout June, July, and August. You'd be joining our child care person (Ciera Barnes) and one member of CALM (usually Ed Lisbe) to help facilitate First Day Play (as opposed to First Day School). Children play upstairs or outside in the parking lot. Going to the playground or walking around the neighborhood are sometimes good options. And the Meeting owns a good amount of arts and crafts supplies which are begging to be used, so if you have talents in those areas please consider sharing them with the children!

In addition, CALM would like to remind Friends of the schedule of activities for young people on Sundays. We begin at 10:20am with singing upstairs. All are welcome to join us to sing a few songs (often from the book *Songs of the Spirit*) while children are arriving. Parents are encouraged to bring children upstairs between 10:20 and 10:25, leaving enough time to check in with the adults upstairs, settle the child in, and enter the Meeting room on time for Meeting for Worship. During the summer, children will engage in facilitated play from 10:30am to about 11:10am, when we will gather all ages together to reflect on the play, plan for giving an afterthought downstairs, and prepare to settle into Meeting. Young people will head downstairs to join the Meeting around 11:15am.

Children, continued on page 4

The second proposal envisions reserving two places in the house for formerly incarcerated individuals who are transitioning to life in the community and who are enrolled in local educational institutions such as BOCES or TC3. Permanent residence at the Burt House would continue as it has in the past. One promising individual has already been identified, and the program might start by offering a place to this individual and then grow from there.

Both proposals are in the very earliest stages of planning. Neither program expects to start until at least mid-2017 at the earliest. Many details remain to be worked out, and many questions remain to be answered.

We are open to other new ideas about right use of the Burt House, and welcome any thoughts you may have. Our names and email addresses appear below.

The Ad Hoc Committee will schedule a threshing session sometime in June for folks who have been working on both proposals. The date for the threshing session will be announced on the meeting listserv and during announcements after the rise of meeting. It is likely to be the first of a series of meetings. We extend an invitation to this session to all Friends who have an interest in discerning right use of the Burt House.

We invite Friends to see how these two proposals may dovetail in ways we might not have yet seen. Our experience as a Meeting has taught us that in a situation where it looks as if there are only two choices, there is almost always another view, another way of seeing things that is given to us when we are open to Spirit.

Ad Hoc Burt House Committee:

*Marilyn Ray, mlr17@cornell.edu
Antonia Saxon, tonia@iecc.com
Alexa Yesukevich, apy3@cornell.edu*

*Gentle friends aware
the blessings of this place
an order to preserve.*



Ann Rhodin

Statement of Conscience

— *Karen Reixach*

The Living Spirit works in the world to give life, joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity and compassionate justice among people. We are united in this Power. We acknowledge that paying for war violates our religious conviction. We will seek ways to witness to this religious conviction in each of our communities. New York Yearly Meeting, (NYYM) Religious Society of Friends, Minute April 2006

I am a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and a citizen of the United States whose conscience cries out at the permanent war footing of this nation. No longer are Quakers and other conscientious objectors automatically required to serve in the military, but our investments and tax dollars pay for war and preparation for war. To the extent I am able, I have divested myself of government bonds and other instruments that pay for war, exploitation and despoliation. However, I am compelled by the federal government to pay taxes used for purposes that violate my conscience.

I believe that, rightly used, our federal taxes promote the common good and fund those things that single individuals could not secure. However, our nation uses vast amounts of these precious resources for war, leaving peaceable people the choices of living below the taxable level, violating the law by refusing to pay some or all of their federal taxes, or paying for war while praying for peace. To date, courts and Congress have turned a deaf ear to cries of conscientious objection to military taxes.

For 30 years I have been under the weight of this dilemma. In 1982 when I completed graduate school in public policy and was about to return to work, I consulted an attorney on the possible ways of refusing to pay for war. At that time I decided that 1) I would end up paying more to the government in interest and penalties; 2) I was not sure I could maintain a loving attitude toward those who were going to be pursuing me for payment; 3) I felt that the energy that tax witness would take could be better spent in more positive ways; 4) my then husband opposed tax witness as impracticable and foolish. So I paid my taxes with a heavy heart.

Over the years, I maintained an interest in legislative efforts to obtain governmental accommodation to conscientious objection to military taxes. I spent my career in building the capacity of my community to respond to vulnerable families and my volunteer work in advocating for justice at home and abroad. But I could not set aside my conviction that by paying taxes used for war and preparation for war, I was undermining the very commitments I was living out in my work and in the rest of my life.

A turning point for me came in 1999, when I was clerking the Coordinating Committee on Witness for New York Yearly Meeting. Rosa Packard, a member of one of the meetings in New York Yearly Meeting, had been refusing for many years to pay federal taxes out of conscientious objection to war, had sued the federal government for accommodation of conscience, and was asking the Yearly Meeting to submit an amicus brief, which required approval of the entire body of the Yearly Meeting. It felt like a message from God to me and to the world that the issues of conscientious

War Taxes, continued on page 3

objection to paying for war are unavoidable. The Yearly Meeting approved going forward, and I clerked the group that prepared the amicus brief in the tax witness case of Packard vs. United States. In that brief we laid out the convictions of Friends that led Rosa Packard to refuse to pay her federal taxes, stressing that it is a solemn matter to say no to the government, but it is an even more solemn matter to say no to the promptings of the Spirit. Perhaps more important than the engagement with Quaker history and testimonies, I experienced the joy and confidence of Rosa Packard and others I have met since who have witnessed to the call of the Living Spirit by not paying part or all of their federal taxes.

When I retired in mid-July 2006, I instructed that no federal tax be withheld from my pension, Social Security and investments. I have paid my federal taxes since then. I have become clear to withhold a quarter of my estimated taxes for 2009 in recognition that this proportion of the federal budget is used for current wars, and I am doing so not simply out of obligation to principle but also because

every time I see a soldier or an implement of war, I feel the weight of contributing to the harm not only of those with whom we are in conflict but also of the young people who fight and who must pay for the growing burden of war in the future. In addition, I am connected to others who carry this concern through my monthly meeting's Peace Tax Fund Work Group, through our Regional Meeting's Committee on Conscience and War, and through the Yearly Meeting Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War. I am shifting my contributions to people I know who are engaged in following the leadings they have been given, and hope someday that my life will have the wholeness that they embody. John Woolman says, "To turn all that we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives." By all, he means not only possessions, but position, talents, everything. What this means in my life is unfolding slowly. I know that this act of withholding is merely symbolic, and that more will be required of me. As I live into the call of conscience, I feel anxiety waning and the sustaining power of the Spirit growing.

Above All, Trust in the Slow Work of God

— *Pierre Teilhard de Chardio*

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown,
something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that it is made
by passing through some stages of instability
and that may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.

Do not try to force them on
as though you could be today what time
that is to say, grace—
and circumstance
acting on your own good will
will make you Tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving vinedresser.

Remembering Elspeth

With joy and anticipation we enter the Rhodin house.
At the door there is a jar with bamboo sticks.
Each with its own blessing,
we all draw one in turn
and thrum with the excitement of what is to come.
It may be the jar or the sticks,
but it is also the delight with which they are presented
and the attentive knowing look as we read what is there.

We sit all piled in the back of a yellow volkswagen
convertible
on our way to climb the bell tower, and talk to the
bell player,
or sit silently on or under the sculptures in the
sculpture garden.
What is the sound of grass growing?
Today I may find it hard to put words to
but I know that a place was held for me,
a circle of love and faith,

large enough that I could step inside
and hear the unheard
know that which was unspoken.

I am grateful for a direct and personal connection with
god,
for the silence which brings me near,
for right action in the face of tyranny,
for hearing stories of guardian angels helping by the road,
and knowing in my heart that has long been true for me.
My guardian angel chose to send me a letter each week,
greet me with a loving smile,
bear witness as I came of age,
and have faith,
not just in me,
but in us all.

*In Loving Remembrance,
Eric Johnson Witherspoon*

Children, continued from page 1

When children enter the Meeting room, they should check in with a parent. They should either sit with a parent or on the mat with the quiet toys. During Afterthoughts, the upstairs contingent will deliver a message about what they did. After this they are free to stay in the Meeting room or go back upstairs or outside, where they will be supervised by Ciera and the FAP. The Friendly Adult Presence will be on duty until the rise of Meeting. Ciera is on duty until 12:15pm.

The young people of our Meeting are a precious resource. What can we do to nurture the spiritual growth of each individual child? What makes our Meeting a strong, multigenerational community? One way our Society grows is by having people who grew up in a Meeting become lifelong Quakers. How can we facilitate this? What do you have to contribute?

There will be a calendar set out after Meeting each Sunday so Friends can sign up to be a FAP on one or more Sundays this summer. FAP's are requested to be "on" with the children from 10:20am until the rise of Meeting.

— Melissa Blake, for CALM

NYYM Children & Youth Field Secretary

Warm greetings! We are embarking on a new journey together in New York Yearly Meeting, with a renewed focus on support for children and youth in the life of our meetings. In our meeting communities, we hope children and youth find a place to share their spiritual journey. I am delighted to be walking alongside you as we explore as a Yearly Meeting how to do this crucial work better. I see my role as listening and offering support, and helping to release the wisdom and creativity among us so we can all share its fruits.

Support for the adult nurturers — parents, family, meeting members working with children and youth programs — is deeply important pastoral care at the root of nurturing young people themselves. As we move together into this work of more intentional outreach and welcome to children and families, I hope you will consider two questions:

What does our meeting need from the rest of the Yearly Meeting,? and

What can we share with the rest of the Yearly Meeting from the experiences of our meeting?

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8am-3pm and by appointment; you can reach me at the email and phone number below. I expect to travel 2-3 times a month in the yearly meeting; visits with monthly meetings can be scheduled during the week and on weekends with advance planning. Our work together might include:

- consulting with a First Day School or religious education committee with program and curriculum planning (in person or using online meeting tools)
- connecting Friends to other resources, like the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative and Quaker Parenting Initiative

Queries for Discernment from the NYM Monthly Meeting Partner Project

- How important is it to your meeting that you are a multigenerational community? How does your meeting envision, or experience, the joys and challenges of multigenerational community?
- How do you anticipate your meeting working toward a more inclusive community might impact the meeting's resources of time, people and gifts?
- What strengths, talents, and living ministry in your community would contribute to and become part of the fabric of the partner project?
- Where's the growing edge for your meeting? — perhaps it's wider than you think?

— Melinda Wenner Bradley,
Children & Youth Field Secretary

- hosting a "Listening Circle" (in person or using online meeting tools) to build our community of practice and share with one another — what's working, hopes and concerns in a quarter or region, and where the life is for us

The yearly meeting is also pleased to gift to monthly meetings *Sparkling Still: A Quaker Curriculum for First Day School or Home Use for Children Ages 3-8*. Copies of the curriculum will be shared during visits to meetings, at Summer Sessions and by mail.

The grant received by NYM from the Shoemaker Fund (in collaboration with New England Yearly Meeting), includes support for a Monthly Meeting Partners Project that the Children & Youth Field Secretary position will give focused attention to over the next three years. I'll work intensively with two new meetings each year in an experiment to see how we can support our monthly meetings to become fuller multigenerational communities. Through surveys, focus groups and visitations to plan programming, we will seek to learn what efforts lead to better participation, more of a sense of belonging, and deeper spiritual engagement for families and young adults in particular. Queries for discernment [appear in the box above]. The application for meetings will be forthcoming from the Yearly Meeting office.

In faith and service,

Melinda Wenner Bradley, Children & Youth Field Secretary
childrenyouthfs@nyym.org, (484) 678-6508

May and June in IMM History

5 Years Ago (May 15, 2011)

A memorial minute for Caroline Pineo was approved with a few suggested changes.

A process minute on the significance of membership, published in the newsletter the previous month, was approved as a statement of where IMM is on this issue (available online, April 2011).

Ithaca Monthly Meeting affirms the practice of refraining from including praise or thanks for individuals in our newsletters, minutes, and other records. Traditionally, Friends have held that everyone who is part of Meeting is presumed to be contributing to the extent of their capacity. Even those who do not contribute time or money or special talents may be contributing in a subtle spiritual way; perhaps just their presence in Meeting for Worship or the way they interact with people contributes to the growth of the Spirit within the meeting. We note that our Meeting is especially generous with thanks and praise in informal settings (Minute of June 12, 2011).

10 Years Ago (May 7, 2006)

Minutes were approved celebrating and supporting the diversity of human relationships and indicating that we accept for Clearness for Marriage under the care of the meeting any loving, committed relationship between two adults; also that spiritual gifts are distributed without regard to gender identity or to sexual orientation. These minutes supplemented the original minute of February 13, 1995 approving same-sex unions.

15 Years Ago (May 13, 2001)

Trustees indicated they would begin to investigate the possibility of incorporating IMM as a non-profit corporation. (Incorporation was completed in 2003).

Kyri Murdough and Laurence, Jasper, and Thea Clarkberg were welcomed into membership of IMM (Laurence upon transfer from 57th Street meeting in Chicago). (June 10, 2001)

20 Years Ago (May 13, 1996)

Meeting warmly approved the Ministry and Oversight recommendation for the marriage of Nancy Gabriel and Marion DaGrossa, to be held on July 13.

Katy Payne was welcomed into membership. (June 10, 1996)

IMM approved a reprinting of 200 copies of Ned Burt's book *Light, Love, and Life*. (June 10, 1996).

35 Years Ago (May 11, 1981)

At the Annual Meeting in May, IMM agreed to shift to a calendar year fiscally starting in 1982. An eight-month May through December fiscal year for 1981 was approved.

60 Years Ago (May 10, 1946)

Business Meeting was held at the home of Mary and Amy Grace Mekeel at their home near Jacksonville.

A younger married group had formed within Meeting and were meeting twice monthly on Sunday evenings. Currently they were reading *The Journal of George Fox*.

After a difficult period, it was decided to lay down the First Day School. Details were not provided in the minutes.

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian



Some years ago, Elspeth with a sign reading "Peace is Love" at the bottom of State Street, with tulips in bloom.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December May 8, 2016

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 5.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 8, 2016. At 12:15 pm, fourteen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Steve Mohlke who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

Clerk read from the fifth edition of Quaker Faith and Practice, Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain:

On my third or fourth attendance at the Sunday service with Friends, an American young Quaker who was on the staff of the American Friends Service Committee working in Tokyo came to talk about his own experiences of having been a conscientious objector during World War II and about the ideas of conscientious objection in relation to Quaker beliefs. It really was an epoch-making shock to me to know such a thing as conscientious objection existed in this world. I had never heard nor dreamed anything like that even though I had been brought up in a devout Christian family. This person had lived 'love your enemy' in the US at the same time that I had been caught up with the mad notions of nationalism and of winning the 'Holy War' in Japan... Quaker worship gave me time and space to dissolve my hard shell of self-centredness to be sensitive to discern things with fairness and unaffected by prejudice. I felt the need to be faithful to truth instead of relying on existing judgment. The idea of conscientious objection based on the philosophy of nonviolence struck me and was proved to me to be fair, reasonable, and Christian. I concluded that it must be the way to take for me and for Japan who had heart-rending experiences of defeat in war and of two nuclear disasters. This became my conviction and I was glad when I realised Japan had declared itself by its new constitution to be a unique conscientious objector nation, stating clearly in article 9 of the constitution that it would abolish fighting forces for ever.

One day in Tokyo Local Court, I had an opportunity to make a statement to witness why I felt it necessary to resist tax-payment for military expenditures, saying, 'With military power we cannot protect our life nor keep our human dignity. Even if I should be killed, my way of living or dying to show my sympathy and forgiveness to my opponents, to point to the love of God shown by Jesus Christ on the cross and by his resurrection, will have a better chance to invite others to turn to walk rightly so that we humankind may live together peacefully.'

— Susumu Ishitani, 1989

2016 5.2 Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice

Nancy Riffer reported that a group of Friends who attended the recent White Privilege Conference recommend the formation of

an ad hoc Committee for Racial Justice. The group may consider changes we can make in our meeting culture and organizational structure to examine and dismantle our white privilege, and will work to amplify the voices of and support Friends of color. The group would comprise volunteers. Friends approved the formation of this committee. @

2016 5.3 Ministry & Worship Committee

- a) Karen Reixach prepared and read a Statement of Conscious [see page 2] that articulately and thoughtfully conveys her calling to cease paying federal taxes that support war. This Statement had been read to Rochester Meeting previously, when Karen had been a member there. Friends were greatly moved by the truth shared in the Statement, and affirmed Karen's witness. Friends approved the formation of Committee of Care for Karen's witness. The members include Carolyn Kenyon, Nancy Gabriel, Garry Thomas and Marilyn Ray. @
- b) Antonia Saxon read a draft of the State of the Meeting Report for 2015 [see page 7], a report that is shared with the Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting. With some minor revisions, Friends approved the report. @
- c) Members of Ministry & Worship shared some discussion regarding the membership of young adults whose membership status had been established as minors. This item will return in the future with a proposed minute.
- d) Chuck Mohler reported that Carl Peterson has transferred his membership from Ridgewood Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. Friends welcomed Carl. Chuck also reported that Lynn Truame asked to be released from membership of Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Friends released her. @

2016 5.4 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)

Gina Varrichio reported that the TSMC anticipates that some maintenance work on the building exterior will be addressed this summer. The committee has a bid for this exterior work at approximately \$2400. This exterior work may involve scaffolding or other somewhat disruptive activities. In addition, there may be several smaller projects undertaken, such as repair of the stairs to the kitchen, removal of the broken fence, and tree trimming. Friends raised some additional concerns about the meetinghouse. Friends received the report. @

2016 5.5 Alternatives to Violence Program

This item will be held over for a future Monthly Meeting.

2016 5.6 Clerk's Report on behalf of the Burr House Committee

Antonia Saxon reported that the current Friends-in-Residence at the Burr House, Violet Goncarovs and Brian Parks, have handed in their resignations effective in August. The Burr House Committee is not ready to proceed on finding their replacements without further direction from the Meeting on the future use of

Minutes, continued on page 7

the Burtt House. Friends received the report, and thank Brian and Violet for their service.

Friends reviewed and discussed who has been recently involved in considering the future of the Burtt House. Several groups are discussing the future of the Burtt House, including the Ad Hoc Burtt House Committee, Social Justice, and the newly formed Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice. Members of the Ad Hoc Burtt House Committee include Antonia Saxon, Alexa Yesukevich, and Marilyn Ray. Meeting Trustees are informed of some of these discussions. Friends are invited to share their thoughts about the Burtt House with the Ad Hoc Burtt House Committee, and may expect an invitation to discuss this as a Meeting in the future. @

2016 5.7 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin reported that the Meeting received \$7800 to support attendance at the recent White Privilege Conference. (This

2015 State of the Meeting Report

After nearly five years in our new meetinghouse, Ithaca Monthly Meeting's shape and composition has shifted somewhat. When the meetinghouse was completed in 2011, a number of college students and young adults came regularly to Meeting for Worship. New young families came and participated in First Day School. This year, few students were seen, and many of the families and their children drifted away. Our First Day School experienced a drop in participating children and adults who were willing to teach. Instead, this year, it was among older Friends that much of the life and energy of the meeting was found.

Our meetinghouse is located in the Northside neighborhood of Ithaca, a small, diverse, less affluent neighborhood whose interests are often overlooked. Northside United, a community group formed by a group of Friends and neighbors with the Meetinghouse as its home, has begun to grow. Work has begun, house by house and block by block, to draw the neighborhood together as a force and a voice in city affairs. In July the Meeting held its second Neighborhood Celebration, opening our doors and inviting everyone in to share food in the meetinghouse and music in the parking lot.

With the rising of the Black Lives Matter movement there has been an upswelling of concern and a new willingness to examine the effects of systemic racism on this country, on our community—and in our own hearts. Participation in community groups of white allies has grown. Preliminary work began to organize people from the Meeting and from Ithaca to go to the 2016 White Privilege Conference. Angela Hopkins came to us from New York Yearly Meeting's Task Force on Racism and led us in a tender, Spirit-filled journey, exploring feelings about issues of race and racism that have been difficult to give voice to in our predominantly white Meeting.

Friends from AVP brought new life to the program in Elmira Prison with weekend workshops and weekly support sessions that resulted in twenty new inside facilitators. Support for AVP programs at the Auburn and Cayuga Correctional Facilities continues.

total includes a grant as well as additional donations from Friends.) Otherwise, the financial picture is normal for this time of year. @

2016 5.8 Other Concerns

A Friend expressed some concern that there has been a rather sudden decline in the attendance of children and of college students in our Meeting.

A Friend described a dilemma of one of our young Friends regarding a social justice issue, and wondered how we might support her. Friends offered thoughts on the issue. @

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:50 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on June 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg

We are still housing to a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who is thriving. ARCH (Aging Consultation Resources and Help) workshops on issues related to aging were offered throughout the year.

The Nominating Committee this year took a new approach to its work. Rather than searching to fill committee slots, committee members began with conversations with individual Friends, seeking to understand with each one where the Spirit was moving with them and where their energy in the Meeting was directed. They sought to learn more about concerns and committees that had become dry. The committee was willing to tell the truth about where activity had fallen off and to identify places where there was spark and light. They laid down one committee temporarily, and urged others to do the work which seemed most fulfilling to them to do and to lay aside tasks that they could not reasonably complete.

In 2015 we lost four long-time, cherished members: Elspeth Rhodin, Esther Darlington, Mac Larsen, and Ed Cranch. (Ed Cranch and his wife Virginia joined Ithaca Monthly Meeting in 1943.) Gary Rith became a member, Karen Reixach transferred her membership to Ithaca, and we welcomed Frances Celia Yesukevich, born in September.

We are still struggling with the problem of making Meeting for Worship and all of the community-sharing that follows it accessible to those with hearing loss. The hearing assistance devices now in use help to some degree, but do not solve the problem. We recognize that hearing Friends share the burden of communication. We continue to look for ways to include all Friends in worship and spoken ministry.

The deepest gift our Meeting shares in the life of the Spirit is the trust we have for one another. We try to be ready to show love, to express gratitude, to extend help, to take pleasure in our children, to visit the sick, to forgive each other. This kind of loving care is hard to record, for it takes place in many little instances which are often unnoticed. But we hope it anchors the whole of our life as a spiritual community.

Quite-possibly-the-first-ever Quaker Party, NYC

The Young Adult Concerns Committee invites young Friends to join us for a weekend of joyful connection and deepening of spiritual relationships with Friends old and new.

The party will be June 17-19 at Fifteenth Street Meeting in New York. Hospitality is available.

The purpose of this event is to pull together Young Adult Friends (YAF) who graduated High School in 1990 and later, into a weekend long celebration at 15th Street Meeting in New York City. Organizers are reaching out to those YAF who grew up in NY Yearly Meeting, Powell House, Junior Yearly Meeting, or local meetings, and have drifted away. They also are reaching out to our neighbor YAF in New England YM, Philadelphia YM and Baltimore YM. Visit the event's web page for more information.

<http://www.nyym.org/?q=YoungAdultFriendsParty2016>

Farmington-Scipio Quakers Email List

Join a community dialogue open to all Friends in the region. If you are interested in receiving information about the Farmington-Scipio region, consider joining the mailing list. It is easy to subscribe. Just follow the link:

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/farmingtonscipioquakers>

And click on the green + Subscribe

— Nick Rozard

June 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ) Wednesday, June 1, 7pm

We will discern what activities we want to undertake as individuals and/or in groups. As this group matures, we expect to work in sub-groups and to meet as a full committee occasionally.

Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse Sunday, June 5, 10a

This is the first of 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.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, June 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.

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

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

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