



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

June 2017

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Listserv:

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

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

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:
m1r17@cornell.edu

Newsletter

Submit contributions to clarkberg@cornell.edu. See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

Ways for Friends to Be Part of the Friends Center for Racial Justice

There are a number of ways in which Friends can become involved in the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ). One opportunity is for Friends to take advantage of the many FCRJ events that explore the steps we need to take to become an inclusive Meeting.

Angela Hopkins is facilitating classes on creating a Community. These are on-going groups in which participants deepen their trust and engagement with each other. Learning and experiencing how to be a community among those we already know is a key step in learning to be a multi-racial, multi-cultural inclusive Meeting.

Angela has also developed a series of workshops to help us consider what changes need to occur to become the community we aspire to be. The first workshop was "Growth Opportunities for White Allies." This was a time when Friends could gain insights into their level of understanding of racism and discern their next steps in racial justice work in the FCRJ or in other situations. I learned that I need to seek support from European-American allies who have done work on their own racism.

The next workshop is designed to help us understand how to build the support we need to work as part of the FCRJ and to do racial justice work. June 2-3 there will be a workshop focused on Spiritual Accompaniment—supporting each other in discernment and nurturing each other in the context of our work on racial justice. As I have gotten more involved with the FCRJ, I have grown in my awareness of needing a Care Committee that will support me and sit with me to discern what I am led to do in this work.

In the Fall, FCRJ will offer a workshop led by members of the NYYM Committee on Conflict Transformation titled "Helping Conflict Become Connection in Community." As Ithaca MM members continue to work closely together and confront our racism, we need ways to move into and through our conflicts.

Workshops are open to all members of Ithaca MM and the Yearly Meeting, regardless of their level of involvement in FCRJ. The workshops bring aspects of Quaker practice into our work on racial justice.

The focus of the FCRJ is on being a model for Friends of an organization that is led by Friends of Color. Because our meetings are predominantly or completely composed of European American Friends, it is necessary to have a structure which provides the opportunity for the amplification of the voices of Friends of Color. Followership is a necessary step in promoting awareness for racial healing and racial justice.

Friends who feel led to join in the radical work of creating such a model are invited to discern, or continue to discern, how their gifts can contribute to the work of FCRJ. This participation provides a laboratory for experiencing what is involved in following the leadership of Friends of Color. Learning this followership has brought me face-to-face with my assumptions and behaviors that reflect my white privilege. It is an opportunity to explore my racism and to get in touch with the places Spirit is leading me to grow.

FCRJ, cont. page 2

Friends who are led to experience the learning that comes from this structure are invited to discern how they can best share their gifts with the FCRJ. As we move forward, Friends who are led to offer their gifts are invited to become part of a team that will collaborate in doing the necessary work under the leadership of Friends of Color.

Building and experiencing the work of a team is as important as providing an end product. It is a crucible for learning about the ways our racism works in daily interactions.

— Nancy Riffer

Singing a la Nightingales, June 9-11

Nightingales will be singing at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Nightingales is an acappella singing group that Friends in NYYM have enjoyed for the last eight years. Getting together and singing as the Nightingales do it is about singing from the heart. It is not about being a great singer. It is about being in a community singing with love.

These weekends are also about fellowship and food. We sing from *Rise Up Singing* and *Worship in Song*, but we often bring songs or rounds we have encountered to teach each other. We all bring food to share, and have pot-luck meals that we take turns organizing and cleaning up after.

If this sounds like fun to you, please come, and bring those you love with you. You are welcome to come to any part or all of the weekend! Suggested fee: \$10. Please register as we need to know how many to plan for, who needs a bed, and what food you plan to share! Children are most welcome, though those not wanting to participate in the singing are the responsibility of their parents.

Here is a link to the online registration form: <https://goo.gl/XHUUQP> For questions or more information contact Bronwyn Mohlke (607) 220-3219 / BJQMohlke@gmail.com or Melissa Blake (607) 379-4297 / melissablake2010@gmail.com

If you can offer a place for Friends to stay for the weekend, please contact Bronwyn.

Regional Extended Meeting for Worship, June 10

Open the possibility of worshipping more deeply together through an extended meeting for worship. No queries or program. Join Friends at Syracuse Friends Meeting, 821 Euclid Avenue Syracuse, NY on Saturday, June 10 from 9:15am to 3:00pm. There will be a brown bag lunch and discernment from 12:30 to 1:30.

Everyone is invited! Bring your spiritual hunger—and also bring your lunch. Consider reviewing, “Invitation to a Deeper Communion” (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #366) by Marcelle Martin.

Friends United Meeting Triennial, Kansas in July

Young Adult Friends (aged 18–27) who are interested in the Friends movement and in developing their leadership experience might consider participating in the Stewards Program offered during the Triennial, July 12–16, at Friends University in Kansas. Learn more at friendsunitedmeeting.org.

Introducing QuED Days:

A Free Series for Young Adult Friends, June 10

Worship. Explore. Feast. Focused on Young Adult Friends but *for all ages*. Our June Speakers include Judy Meikle “Give Over Thine Own Willing”; and Kody Hersh “Decolonizing Creation.”

Each QuED Day runs 9am–4pm and includes breakfast, worship, speakers, lunch, and opportunities for conversations, spiritual direction, games, and more. For additional information, visit nnyym.org or find us (NYYM QuED) on Facebook.

- June 10: Friends Center for Racial Justice, 227 Willard Way, Ithaca, NY
- July 22: Adirondack, 27 Saratoga Av., South Glens Falls, NY
- August 19: Manhasset, 1421 Northern Blvd. Manhasset, NY
- September 16: 89 Park St, Montclair, NJ
- October 7: Buffalo, in Point Chautauqua, NY
- November 4: 109 Nichol Ave., New Brunswick, NJ

Meetings for Healing, Fourth Wednesdays

The text of George Fox’s *Book of Miracles* has been lost, but the recent Pendle Hill edition has reconstructed enough of the contents to show that he and other Quakers regularly invoked the Light to cure a variety of ailments. The tradition of Quaker healing continues in our own era at the Healing Centers of our regional gatherings, at Pendle Hill meetings for healing, and previously at IMM as well, until Dick and Melody laid it down a few years ago.

Now the Spiritual Nurture Working Group is offering a series of monthly Meetings for Healing. These will take place on fourth Wednesdays of every month through November, from 5:45 to 6:45 at the Friends Center for Racial Justice. (The regular midweek MfW follows at 7:30.) The next one will be on 28 June.

It’s difficult to describe what happens in Meeting for Healing, and each one is different. They resemble Meetings for Worship, but smaller, and the messages ask for or offer some sort of healing. Some people find it easier to talk about issues that they or their friends or relatives are facing in a small group who are gathered for the same purpose. Others prefer to remain silent while absorbing the Light energy from the meeting. For many, it’s an opportunity to address social and environmental issues of concern to Quakers. And it’s also an occasion for Friends to appreciate each others’ gifts and struggles in a different kind of spiritual setting.

— Dreia Spies

“Faith and Contemplation of the Cosmos” at FGC

Wallace Watson plans to facilitate a discussion on this topic at the Friends General Conference in July, as an afternoon program sponsored by the Non-Theist Friends group.

Our understanding of the age, size, and contents of the cosmos beyond the planet we inhabit has changed greatly in our own lifetimes, and immeasurably since the times in which our “sacred” texts were written. We will explore the implications of this increased knowledge for our Quaker faith, starting from selected astronomical photographs and statements on the subject by various writers—Friends as well as others.

June in IMM History

20 Years Ago (June 19, 1997)

Three IMM Trustees and our attorney met with the Ithaca City attorney and planner to discuss: 1) if an addition is put on the Burt House for a Meeting room, the kind of variance that would be needed; and 2) the need for Meeting to file certain forms concerning the impact on the Scenic River Corridor, because part of the property is within this corridor. Work is continuing with our attorney on the problem of maintaining the view, and what this requires.

30 Years Ago (June 8, 1987)

The Sanctuary Committee reported that a new Sanctuary refugee, Juan, has arrived in Ithaca. Friends approved in principle the idea of helping to fund training for Juan.

40 Years Ago (June 13, 1977)

It was reported that the IMM's Annual Meeting was held the previous month at the Poplar Ridge Friends Meetinghouse and was attended by 18 to 20 people.

Thor Rhodin read a letter to IMM in which Ruth and Harrop Freeman announced their resignation from the Committee of Overseers. This led to discussion of the work of this committee. In our small Meeting it has carried also the duties of a committee of ministry and counseling. The overseers have charge of the functioning of the Meeting and are expected to advise and assist by making recommendations to Clerks and the Meeting as a whole. It was suggested by Helmut Sieverts and Ned Burt that our committee be known as the Committee for Ministry and Oversight since it has been functioning as such. We need clearness as to the work-

ing of this committee. The matter should be brought up at future Meetings for further discussion. Thor Rhodin suggested that the remaining members of the Committee of Ministry and Oversight, or Overseers, arrange to meet, choose a chairman, decide whether they need more members, and report to the next Monthly Meeting. Helmut Sieverts will convene the meeting of that committee.

Thor Rhodin reported on the possibility of our Meeting taking over the Hector Meeting House. There is a restriction in the deed that specifies that the building must be used by Friends, particularly the Hector Monthly Meeting, which is no longer in existence. This can be waived by the heirs to the estate. At present, Joan Harmon, lawyer, is engaged to inquire into what is involved in clearing the title. Note: IMM obtained clear title to the Hector Meetinghouse property in 1978.

50 Years Ago (June 10, 1967)

Quaker Action and members of the Phoenix crew are making an appeal to the US Treasury Department to release Quaker funds of \$1400 which have been frozen. These funds were to be sent to Canada Friends to buy medical supplies for North and South Vietnam.

Concern was expressed about bringing social [and apparently other] concerns to Meeting for Worship. It was decided to use two monthly Business Meetings for discussion of various concerns and to limit every third monthly Meeting to business matters. The following two monthly Meetings were to be devoted to the First Day School and its problems.

Internet Files of Historical Interest to Friends

Below are several internet files of potential interest to Ithaca-area Friends, with annotation:

"The Philosophy of E.A. Burt," University of Adelaide

A PDF of this PhD thesis on Ned Burt's philosophy by Francis Moriarty can be downloaded from: <https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/2440/21495/2/02whole.pdf>

Of particular interest:

1. Chapter 1, pp. 1-27, is the most detailed biography of Ned I am aware of.
2. Appendix B, pp. 268-269: Declaration to colleagues at the East-West Conference, University of Hawaii, 1959. Ned's opposition to answering the questions the University of Hawaii required of employees related to whether one had ever been a member of the Communist Party, other fascist organizations, been convicted of sedition or treason, etc. [It is not made clear whether Ned had applied for a sabbatic or other position there].
2. Appendix C: p.270. "Far from Un-American": a *Cornell Daily Sun* editorial of April 9, 1951 decrying incrimination by the US House Un-Americans Committee of Cornell professors Ned Burt and Frank Freeman as participants in "Communist 'peace' campaigns."

3. Appendix D, pp. 271-273: "A Humanist Manifesto" published in 1933 in *The New Humanist*, signed by Ned and 33 others.

Those interested in philosophy may also find other chapters on Ned's work and the evolution of his thinking to be of interest.

Hector Monthly Meeting and Hector Meetinghouse

1. A summary of Quaker cemeteries in the Towns of Ulysses and Hector and an early history of Quaker settlers in the area, including the Mekeels, who were initially with Hector MM and later, with IMM. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyseneca/friends.htm>
2. Photos and sketches of Hector Meetinghouse and a summary of the history of Hector MM, from the Bryn Mawr College collection. http://triptych.brynmawr.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/SC_Houses/id/668

Ithaca Sanctuary Video

This 1986 documentary about the Sanctuary movement in Ithaca and the city's declaration as a Sanctuary City is about 47 minutes in length. It includes comments by Ned Burt, several members and attenders of IMM and surrounding Meetings, and other members of the community. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufbk408bRE>

No Meeting for Business Occurred in May

Because Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was canceled last month, there are no Minutes in this newsletter.

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

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. No experience 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.

Sessions at Silver Bay, July 23-29

Visit <http://www.nnym.org/?q=SummerSessions2017> for more information, and register now!

Tai Ji Quan, Tuesdays 7:30-8:30p

Peaceful. Although being a martial art, this class is a welcoming and warm retreat focused on well being and health. The most likely self defense situation that we hope our class helps prepare for is avoiding slips and falls. Contact Chris Dunham for more information. Donations to cover costs.

June 2017 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, June 1, noon

The \$10 lunch buffet at Diamond's Indian restaurant provides a great opportunity to get together! For more information, contact Lynn Podhaski at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam Murphy at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

Women's Fellowship Friday, June 2, 7p

Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will be at Ithaca Bakery (open to 9pm), 400 N Meadow Street.

FCRJ Spiritual Nurture Workshop Friday, June 2 - Saturday, June 3

Join with Anne Pomeroy and Lu Harper at the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ). Participants to consider "spiritual accompaniment" and how this applies to our anti-racism and racial justice work. Spiritual accompaniment is "being alongside people as a companion and friend in order to help them grow in freedom and in the spirit of community." The workshop registration of \$40 (or as led) helps support the FCRJ. Your contribution for food (as led) helps defray food costs for the weekend. To register go to <http://fcrj.org/spiritual-nurture-workshop-june-2017/> Questions? Email registration@fcrj.org.

Hector Meetinghouse Summer Worship Sundays, beginning June 4th, 10a

Every Sunday from June through the end of September, there will be Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road in Trumansburg. These meetings start thirty minutes earlier than downtown. All are invited to attend. Please contact Dreia Spies or Tom Brown for further information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, June 11, Rise of Meeting

Join the Quaker decision-making process. Proposed agenda items should be sent to our clerk, John Lewis, by the preceding Monday.

Annual Clothing Swap Sunday, June 11, 3-5p

Join us at Kris Altucher's house, 708 Mitchell St., Ithaca. Everyone is invited to go through their closets and bring any adult or teen size clothes you no longer want. Then you "shop" through everyone else's unwanted clothing to find some new treasures. But please, only clean, wearable clothes and no rags.

While historically we have held the clothes trade for women's clothes, the event is open to all, Friends and friends. Feel free to bring snacks.

Third Street Meetinghouse Work Day Saturday, June 17, 9a-1p

Join us for our annual work day at the Third Street Meetinghouse! There are jobs for all abilities, ages, and time periods. Come help with some needed building and grounds maintenance, while visiting with F/friends of all ages. Lunch will be provided.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, June 25, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, June 29, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 10:00a Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:30a Meeting for Worship at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a Children in childcare enter the meetingroom for inter-generational Meeting for Worship.

Other Weekly IMM Events

Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesdays at 7:30p

The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.