



Newsletter of the  
**Ithaca Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2007

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## Ministry & Oversight:

### What Exactly Do They Oversee?

by *Tonia Saxon*

In many worship communities, congregants pay their clergy to deliver ministry and administer pastoral care. Pastors and ministers visit the sick, the older members of the congregation, and the bereaved. The unprogrammed meetings of the Religious Society of Friends, by contrast, have no paid clergy. All may minister, and all are called to watch over each other and to support each other in times of need.

The Society of Friends does have a more formal institution for the care of the meeting, though. "The pastoral work of the Society is specially committed to the overseers"; that is, to the committee meetings variously called "Ministry and Counsel," or "Ministry and Oversight" (or, more warmly, "M&C," or "M&O."). In our meeting, it is Ministry and Oversight to which concerns about the individual welfare of members and attenders of our meeting are brought.

I told the person who asked me if I would be willing to serve on Ministry and Oversight that I didn't know enough to serve. "I worried about that, too, the first time I served on M&O," he said. "But I found Ministry and Oversight a wonderful way to learn about the meeting." One of the people who'd already served on the committee and whom I called to ask about it said the same thing: "I learned so much and enjoyed it so much that when my term was up I said 'Yes' to another three years."

In M&O meetings, we often hear about people who are ill or who have lost family members, people having a hard time in any of a number of different ways. In response to this, we might take members of the family aside to offer words of sympathy, call

them, or go to visit them. When members or attenders are unable to come to Meeting for Worship for an extended period of time, members of M&O have visited them in their own homes to worship with them there. Members of M&O attend weddings and memorial services. We try to gravitate toward unfamiliar faces at Meeting for Worship to greet them and make them welcome.

M&O also hears requests for clearness committees, considers possible members for those committees, and contacts them to see if they can serve. (In this wired age, this is sometimes done by cell phone from the chairs where we sit at the Burt House: "Can you serve on X's clearness committee?"; then, to the other M&O members: "He says yes.")

The quality of Meeting for Worship in general is M&O's other charge. The committee considers whether the balance of vocal ministry and silent waiting seems right, whether announcements go on too long and what to do about it, the closing of the doors, the rise of meeting. All of these little moments together constitute our worship together as a community, and a change in one of them can deepen the Meeting's experience, or widen it.

This does not mean that the duty of M&O members is to minister. Sandra Cronk's Gospel Order describes the dividing of the responsibility of more seasoned members of the meeting early on: "The elders themselves rarely spoke in meeting for worship . . . They helped create and inward space for Christ to enter. They were noted for their gift in centering, the abil-

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# Announcements

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## Do you have something for the May newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the May newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Tuesday, April 24. (277-4183 / [bjm9@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm9@cornell.edu) / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 or after meeting for worship on April 22)

## Annual Egg Hunt at the Murphy/Hess home / Sunday, April 1

Floating Meeting is an intergenerational meeting for worship and time to get to know each other better. This month it will be held at Liam Murphy and Susan Hess's home after the rise of meeting on April 1 for their annual egg hunt! Please bring a dozen eggs per participating child (or grown-up) to Meeting at 11:00, or drop them off at the Murphy/Hess household any time/day beforehand, so that the eggs will be hidden before the kids arrive. Bring along baskets for collecting the eggs. Please bring a brunch dish-to-pass to be eaten as soon as you can arrive from Meeting. The egg hunt will be held snow, rain or shine as soon as the majority of kids arrive—and no later than 1pm! Dress kids in boots and weather gear there can lots of mud, and it can be chilly on the hillside. It'll only be held indoors if it's much too rainy, windy, and cold. We will have a "more difficult" area for older kids and an egg-hunting spot for the smallest fry, so toddlers welcome! The Murphy/Hess household is at 78 Genung Circle off Genung Road near Snyder Hill Road. Call if you need directions (272-4526).

## Dinner and Discussion with Jerry Elmer – Thursday, April 5, 6:00PM Burtt House

From the Peace Witness Committee: One way of witnessing for peace is in nonviolent civil disobedience. This will be the topic of Jerry Elmer, guest of our meeting on April 4 and 5, who is sojourning at the Burtt House those evenings. On April 5, Friends will have an opportunity to meet him and to learn from his experiences involving various types of nonviolent tactics in working for peace, justice, and the environment.

Jerry Elmer is a Vietnam-era draft resister, anti-war activist, former Co-Director of the Rhode Island AFSC office, and is currently staff attorney at the Conservation Law Foundation in Rhode Island.

He will be speaking at Cornell's Peace Studies Seminar (G08 Uris Hall) at noon on April 5, on the topic "Nonviolent Civil Disobedience: A Participant's Perspective." Some copies of his book, *Felon for Peace: the Memoir of a Vietnam-Era Draft Resister*, will be available for signing at that time as well.

Please join us for a dish-to-pass dinner at the Burtt House beginning at 6:00 with presentation to follow at 7:00.

## From the Library

Presently in circulation are the Library's two new copies of the book, *Felon for Peace: The Memoirs of a Vietnam –Era Draft Resister* by Jerry Elmer. Hopefully, you will have opportunity to look at one of them before the discussion on Thursday, April 5. They don't even have their card pockets yet, but are circulating from person to person. Maybe by April 5, they can surface at the Burtt House to acquire their card pockets.

The book provides us an insider's view into events that previously we may have only known from news accounts. More importantly for us, it provides a perspective on nonviolent civil

disobedience and how this tactic has been useful and successful in changing public opinion and government policy. Jerry Elmer's personal account of his early commitment to pacifism as a teenager and his subsequent refusal to cooperate with the draft during the sixties, will be inspiring reading for young people of draft-able age today as well as to those who lived through those times.

## Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, April 7

The Perry City Friends (Quakers) invite you to a "peace potluck" on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to share thoughts, feelings, and actions in a safe haven as we explore paths to peace together. The next meeting will be Saturday, April 7th at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 7:00. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

## Easter Morning Sunrise Meeting for Worship followed by Breakfast / Sunday, April 8

Meeting for worship will be held at 6:30 on Easter morning at the Hector Meetinghouse. Nancy Gabriel and Marion DaGrossa invite you to breakfast at their home, 109 Sears Street, from 8:00 to 10:00, for those who have gathered for the sunrise meeting for worship as well as those on their way to the 11:00 meeting for worship.

## Second Sunday Celebration Circle: Rise Up, Be Free / April 8

This month's celebration falls during a sacred time in both the Christian and Jewish calendars—it is Easter Sunday and also the 7th night of Passover. Easter is a time of rebirth and re-awakening, a time when we can feel the presence of Spirit joyfully arising within us. Passover celebrates liberation and the power of the human spirit to overcome oppression and find freedom. We will explore the place where these two themes meet, and how they both call us to live a more awakened and free life. Our ritual will involve symbols from both Easter and Passover traditions: sharing matzoh and decorating eggs (an earth-based symbol as well) with affirmations of our own potential, interwoven with song, poetry and meditation.

*Second Sunday of every month, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (April 8)*

Adults and teens welcome.

Our celebrations take place at the Henry St. John Building, 301 S. Geneva St., Ithaca, suite 103. Enter the building through the playground side ramp entrance. We are downstairs, first door on the left. The building is wheelchair accessible, and there is plenty of free parking.

## Peace Witness Committee / Tuesday, April 10

The violence and militarism of our times challenge Friends in our work for peace.

*How do we bring our testimony into action?*

This month, the Peace Witness Committee will examine several perspectives on how we can witness for peace. At the regular meeting of the committee, the agenda will offer two approaches that Friends may want to consider.

One is the leading of an Ithaca Friend; the other is an initiative from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting which is being brought to many other meetings throughout NYYM.

All are welcome at Peace Witness Committee meetings. We meet next on Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 PM, Burtt House. If you

have comments or suggestions for our committee, please contact Elizabeth Schneider at 273-3566 or [NESchneid@aol.com](mailto:NESchneid@aol.com).

Also from the Peace Witness Committee: don't miss the announcement about dinner and discussion with Jerry Elmer on Thursday, April 5.

## **Song & Poetry Circle / Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship / Saturday, April 14**

A participatory evening of sacred song, circle dance, and inspirational poetry from many spiritual traditions. This evening will be an opportunity to simply deepen into connecting with Spirit through song, interspersed with poetry, sacred circle dances, and stillness. All are invited to lead songs and share poems, or just come to sing and listen. Refreshments will be served afterwards. This event is not geared toward young children, but older kids and teens are welcome.

Saturday April 14th, 7:30 PM

Henry St, John Building

301 S. Geneva St., Suite 103

(A program of the Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship [www.commonheart.org](http://www.commonheart.org).)

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Change in date for April and May**

Please note the change in date of our meeting for worship with attention to business in both April and May. In both of those months, meeting for worship with attention to business will be held on the third Sunday of the month, in order to avoid Easter and Mother's Day.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on Sunday, April 15. All are encouraged to attend. Please come with an open mind and a listening heart, mindful of our Meeting as a loving community and business conducted under a spirit of worship.

## **A Journey through Quaker Business / date change for final session: Thursday, April 19**

The six part series on A Journey through Quaker Business will conclude on Thursday, April 19, beginning at 6:45 and ending at 8:45.

These Thursday evening sessions are held at the Burt House at 6:45. This series has been organized by Tom Brown, Beth Jolles, Melanie Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Ellie Rosenberg and Mary Beth Tierney. This group formed out of enthusiasm that followed a Clerking Workshop at Powell House last February. After our first couple group of meetings, our clerk implemented a few changes during Business Meeting that were noticed and favorably commented on by several people. Encouraged, the group decided to try this information and discussion series in an effort to create some shared experience about all of our hopes and desires for Meeting for Business.

## **Tea Party - Saturday April 21 from 3 to 6pm**

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite you to join them at their annual tea party! Stop by for a snack, cup of tea, or just conversation at their house (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca). Contact Chris or Melissa with questions or for detailed directions at 277-9599.

## **Social Justice Committee Presentation & Discussion / Sunday, April 22**

The Social Justice Committee is holding a presentation and discussion with Sylvester Johnson on April 22, 2007 at 1 pm

following the brunch in the Cul de Snack. Please join us for an empowering look at the ways that we can help reduce greenhouse gases and learn to live in ways that help us and the earth.

"Scientist Sylvester Johnson, Ph.D. Applied Physics, describes how to harness the most powerful social and economic engine in history to transitioning to renewable energy sources. This presentation is distinguished by the positive emphasis on detailed action steps for making a difference, in combination with compelling graphics and description of the many accelerating repercussions of climate change and global warming."

## **Meeting for Healing / Tuesday, April 24**

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.*

*In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.*

*In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.*

*In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.*

*In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.*

*In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.*

*When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.*

*When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.*

*So as long as we live they too shall live,*

*for they are now a part of us as we remember them.*

*—Hebrew Union Prayer Book*

A Meeting for Healing is held at 7:15 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau's house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). This month it will be on April 24. All are welcome to attend. If you have a concern but cannot attend, let Melody know, and you will be held in the Light. For directions, or more information, please call Melody at 272-8755.

## **Planning Ahead / Advance Directives / Thursday, April 26**

Have you ever wondered how to plan ahead in the case of serious illness? Are you familiar with the NYS health care proxy, the living will, and powers of attorney? Are you wondering if you need a will? If these and related questions are on your mind, come hear a free presentation by local elder law attorney, Marcie Finlay, on Thursday, April 26 at 3:00 PM at McGraw House, 221 So. Geneva St, Ithaca. This annual program is sponsored by the NYS Bar Associations Elder Law Section. This information is useful to persons of all ages. All are welcome. (On street parking only.) For more information, call Elizabeth Schneider, at McGraw House, 272-7054.

## **Steve Gaarder will share his Quaker Journey / Saturday, April 28**

Find it difficult to make the Sunday morning Quaker Journeys? Curious about life at Ecovillage? Then, come out to 130 Rachel Carson Way, Ecovillage (NOT Anabel Taylor Hall) to hear Steve Gaarder share his Quaker Journey on Saturday, April 28 at 1:30pm. He is one of the founding members of the Ecovillage Co-housing Cooperative. Those interested in a tour of the two neighborhoods can stay on for the regularly scheduled tour which takes place every 4th Saturday of the month from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

Park in the visitors' parking lot or anywhere along the road opposite the carpools. From the visitor parking, walk between the green common house on the right and a tan house on the left. That house on the left is Steve and Suzanne's. Beware - it's mud season! If you need directions, call 277-4264.

## **The History of Ithaca Monthly Meeting / Monday April 30**

Ever wondered how Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends came to be? Ever thought about the Friends who worshipped here in the past? Was Meeting ever this large, and did it ever have so many children? How have children in Meeting and the timing of First Day School and Meeting for Worship been handled in the past? What are some of the peace witness and social justice highlights of the past?

Join us on Monday April 30th at 7pm when our Meeting Historian, Tom Brown, will share information about the History of Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

## **Social Justice Committee / transportation to loved ones of people in the county jail**

The Social Justice Committee has an ongoing project in which we provide transportation to loved ones of people in the county jail. We work in coordination with the Offender Aid and Restoration Program. Visiting days at the jail are on Tuesdays and Saturdays and appointments are set ahead of time. We have a strong core of faithful volunteers many of whom have been doing this for the past four years. We could use a few more volunteers who could give a day or half a day once a month to provide this much needed and appreciated service. If you have any questions about this service and might be interested, please contact Barbara Barry at fb12@cornell.edu or tel. 533-7563.

## **The Mystery of the Lost Theater Curtains**

If you know of the whereabouts of the theater curtains last used for the 2006 talent show, contact Ann Rhodin, please. 272-8700 / 225 South Albany Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

## **Directory Changes**

Please send any corrections or additions to the 2007 directory to Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke, 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 277-4183 / <bjm9@cornell.edu>

Corrections:

Sue Ruff / 6 Kolb Road, Binghamton, NY 13905 / her phone & e-mail address remain unchanged: [applepieand@hotmail.com](mailto:applepieand@hotmail.com) / 724-2111

## **More Friendly 8s**

Enough people have shown interest in the Friendly 8s dinner group program that the first three groups have filled up and we need to start a fourth! So, Program Committee will be starting a new set of Friendly 8's signup sheets at rise of Meeting on April 15th. This time, however, we need people outside of Program

Committee to host the initial dinners....we are asking anyone who feels led to host a dinner sometime during the month of May to please email or call James Camp (jpc67@cornell.edu, 533-7827) on or before April 14th with your name, the neighborhood you live in, and a date for the initial dinner. With your help, we can get as many as 50 people involved in Friendly 8s!

## **Kitchen Cupboard: The Feinstein Million Dollar Grant**

The Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard is proud to participate in this annual challenge during the months of March and April. Any food or monetary donations received at the cupboard during these two months will count toward increasing the cupboard's portion of the Feinstein grant. Last year the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard received \$306 from this challenge.

Friends should be aware that our monthly contributions to the Cupboard are greatly appreciated. Each dollar can get us up to 6 lbs of food. We are also the only food pantry who supplies diapers and infant food/formula regularly as well as personal care items. Last month we served over 500 individuals. We distribute more than 10,000 lbs. of food and personal care items each month. Please contact Ginny Gartlein if you would like to assist and/or have questions about our participation at the cupboard.

Ginny Gartlein - 272-3471

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## **News / Events in Wider Quaker Circles**

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### **Spark: New York Yearly Meeting News**

Spark is the newsletter of New York Yearly Meeting, and comes out five times a year. It is mailed directly to members of all Meetings in New York. The current issue (March 2007) deals with conflict and its transformation. It includes an article by Christopher Sammond called *The Community We Seek to Be*, as well as pieces by and about the Committee on Conflict Transformation.

Christopher Sammond shared the following, that came out of representing NYYM in the strategic planning sessions of Friends United Meeting:

We have been humbled to learn that to labor with others in the hope of imposing our view on them feels like an assault to them, rather than love. We have learned that to labor in love means to let go of all sense of "us and them" and to understand that the moment we depart from a sense of the laboring body as "us," and move to viewing anyone as "other," we close our hearts in judgment and we have ceased to labor in love. We have learned that to labor in love means to listen deeply, to seek to understand, to refrain from judgment, to speak our truth without agenda, to know and celebrate each person in the room as a Divine spark of God, to not let our hearts cloud over with anger or recrimination, to genuinely love those we vehemently disagree with, even in the moment when our disagreement is at its peak—that is to labor in love, and we have been brought to it, and we are praying that we will continue in it, and we have come away changed in our souls because of the experience.

### **New York Yearly Meeting Spring Representative Meeting at Chautauqua / April 13-15**

The Representative Meeting Host Committee announces:

*The Farmington-Scipio Region has issued the call and is looking forward to hosting our Spring Representative*

*Meeting at Chautauqua. The weekend will begin with a meeting for worship with a concern for initiating the weekend sessions. This time is an extension of the Spring gathering wherein we will prepare the meeting space with worship, continue creating community, and a time for worship sharing on the aspects of conflict. This initiation of the weekend sessions will take place on Friday, April 13, from 7 to 8:30 P.M. in Lenna Hall. Our hosts have arranged for joyous fellowship and singing to cap off the evening, so bring songbooks.*

## **Pendle Hill Weekend: Being a Friendly Adult Presence / May 11-13**

A weekend with Kri Burkander and others, co-sponsored with the Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference (FGC).

Friendly Adult Presences (past, present, and future) will consider best practices for working with middle- and high-school youth in the unprogrammed Friends' tradition, particularly on overnight events. Meet with other youth workers to discuss such concerns as Spirit-led child safety (insurance); navigating the non-negotiables (drugs, sex, etc.); providing for youth voice and leadership; and why clear limits and structure are important. In our search for common ground on guidelines and program expectations, we will have time for brainstorming, problem-solving, and nurturing community with other youth workers.

Kri Burkander of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (MI) is teen coordinator for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and serves on FGC's Youth Ministries, Religious Education, and Long Range Conference Planning committees. She has staffed the FGC Gathering High School Program for twelve years. She is the assistant director of the Upper School of Ann Arbor Academy, where she teaches history and psychology.

Other presenters will include Chris Jorgensen, New England Yearly Meeting; Chris deRoller, New York Yearly Meeting; Hope Bravehart, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; and Laura Norlin, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.

\$265/shared room; \$315/private room; \$190/commuter

## **Spring Gathering 2007 / June 8-10**

Spring Gathering is a weekend when all of the Meetings in our region, Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting, gather for fellowship, discussion, meeting for worship, meeting for worship with attention to business, and fun! This year it will be held the weekend of June 8-10 at Long Point Camp, approximately 20 miles north of Watkins Glen on the west side of Seneca Lake. It is our Meeting's responsibility this year to plan the program and to coordinate logistics for the weekend. Those on the planning committee are Rini Clarkberg, Ginny Gartlein, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Bronwyn Mohlke, and Marilyn Ray. We heartily welcome those who have never attended this event to join us this year.

We are excited to report that Carolyn Hilles has agreed to join us at Spring Gathering.

Carolyn Hilles is a member of Beacon Hill Meeting in Boston, Mass. She the author of "Our Money & Our Lives," a featured article that appeared in the July 2006 Friends Journal on Friends and Money. In addition to giving the plenary address, Carolyn Hilles plans to conduct a workshop for our Teens, and be a resource for us throughout the weekend. Carolyn Hilles and Penny Yumba have been presenters at FGC on this same topic.

Accompanying Carolyn Hilles will be Penny Yunuba, also a member of Beacon Hill Meeting. Together, Carolyn Hilles and Penny Yunuba have conducted popular workshops on money at Pendle Hill and Friends General Conference. Penny Yunuba also

helped develop *Your Money or Your Life: A Study Guide for Money and Spirit*. In 1989, Penny Yunuba used the program in *Your Money or Your Life* to retire early, giving up her \$70,000-a-year job. Since then she has helped save a neighborhood garden from development, visited the elderly, played with the children from her Quaker Meeting, visited with her friends and family, and had time for more spiritual listening and following.

In addition to providing an opportunity to meet and work with these Friends, Spring Gathering will include a range of workshops on a variety of subjects; activities for children, teens, and families; worship; singing; and plenty of time for eating and relaxing with Friends.

Please plan to join us for what promises to be a stimulating, interesting, and spiritual exploration of Friends' relationship with money.

## **Powell House / Upcoming Events**

Powell House is the conference and retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting - Religious Society of Friends. Their mission is to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world.

It is a quiet, peaceful place conducive to reflection and spiritual growth. Programs and facilities are structured to foster community development and strengthen group identity.

Please contact Powell House at 518-794-8811 or go on the web at <http://www.powellhouse.org> for more information or to register for any conference. Child care is available with three weeks advance notice.

Descriptions of the April weekends can be found in March's newsletter.

Gender And Sexuality: A Conference For Young Adults (older than high school students) 4/13/2007-4/15/2007

(this one was not included in the March newsletter, so the description is included)

Remember when we were teenagers, and Powell House was a safe and comfortable place to talk about sex and explore sexuality? Just because we're a few years older doesn't mean that all of our insecurities and curiosity about sexuality have disappeared. In fact we may feel more pressure to know about these things and have less opportunities to talk about them.

During this weekend we will explore the cultural, societal and historical constructions of gender. We will share experiences about the ways that gender has shaped our lives and our relationships. Topics of discussion will include safe sexual practices, building healthy relationships, and social justice issues around sexuality and gender.

This weekend will provide us with many opportunities for personal growth, a chance to giggle with old and new friends and time to share resources for those of us who work with teens or are trying to figure out how we will talk to our own children about these issues.

Cost: \$180 adults, \$90 for ages 13-22, \$45 infants-12, & \$90 commuters; childcare with 3 weeks notice.

Earth, Water, Fire, Air: Intergenerational Men's Youth Weekend 4/20/2007-4/22/2007

Blooming 4th - 6th Grade / 4/27/2007-4/29/2007

Journeys & Journals : Annual Women's Weekend 4/27/2007-4/29/2007

*Facilitated by Margaret Lechner & Ann Davidson*

Come join us for our annual women's retreat at Powell House. This year, we'll explore our life journeys, looking especially at spirituality. Women will be invited to look at our lives with an

interest in how or where the S/spirit has been with or led us and how we have withered, languished or matured spiritually. We will reflect on our path, explore our stumbling as well as our growth, celebrate those who have been there with us to help us up with tender hand and guide us along the way and renew our support for each other. Our activities will include:

- \* Mapping our journey
- \* Journaling
- \* Autobiography
- \* Singing (of course)

If you have them, please bring your journal (a pad of plain paper will do), button box, poetry/songs/prayers, and a scarf or other accessory with special meaning. Most important, bring YOURSELF.

Cost: \$180 adults, \$90 for ages 13-22, \$45 infants-12, & \$90 commuters; childcare with 3 weeks notice.

#### Diving Deep: A Writing Master Class 5/4/2007-5/6/2007 Facilitated by Lisa Grant

Writers who participated in Powell House's Touching The Divine workshop, or those who are seriously writing for professional publication will find Diving Deep an extremely rewarding weekend. During three intense days, dedicated writers of fiction and non-fiction will begin to learn the skills they'll need to raise their work to the next level. This Master Class will explore the panoply of writerly tools in-depth, including:

- Premise vs. Theme vs. Plot
- Transitions, Structure, Rhythm and Cadence
- Building Scenes and Three-dimensional Characters
- Writing Great Non-Fiction: How to make the truth sparkle
- The definition of Overwriting - and how not to do it
- Writers Block: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly and the Useful

Attendees will participate in writing exercises designed to help them reach deep inside themselves and discover what they really want (or need) to say, the best ways to say it and the best medium to say it in. Tips will include how to discover your own unique "voice," what to do when you've written yourself into a corner, and techniques that will help to develop the skills and craft writers must have if they wish to create art as well as entertain.

All participants will have private, one-on-one time with the facilitator to discuss a current work in progress and their writing style.

Lisa Grant is both a published writer and a publisher. Founder of The Writers' Collective, she is also CEO of Guru Girls: Publishing Consultants.

Cost: \$210 adults, \$105 for ages 13-22, \$52.50 infants-12, & \$105 commuters; childcare with 3 weeks notice.

#### The Gifts We Bring To Swing 5/11/2007-5/13/2007

Facilitated by our very own Melanie-Claire Mallison!

What do swing dancing and Quaker testimonies have in common? Aside from being LOTS of fun, swing dancing also touches on many wonderful Quaker values - like equality, simplicity, connection, community, the courage to lead and the courage to follow.

Melanie-Claire is a birthright Quaker and has been swing dancing since she was 12! She'll lead us in in-depth discussions on our Quaker Testimonies and then teach us East Coast Swing (a.k.a. Jitterbug), so we can live out the gifts we bring to swing!

Melanie-Claire Mallison is a member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, and webmaster for the Ithaca Swing Dance Network. She loves all kinds of dance, and may throw in a waltz or techno dance move over the weekend. She's clerk of the Nurture Coordinating Committee of NYYM as well as clerk of the Powell House Committee.

#### EARTHSONG 7TH - 12TH (82 Youth!!) 5/25/2007-5/27/2007

Spring will be bursting out and so will our seniors. Join us for this two-houses-full farewell to our graduating seniors. Celebrate friendships and Spirit in workshops, Ultimate Frisbee games, a dress-up (or down) dinner and the ever exciting Saturday Night Cabaret.

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## Community News and Events of Interest

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### Documentary about war tax resisters / Saturday, April 14th, from 2-4 p.m

"Let them march all they want, as long as they pay their taxes".

—Alexander Haig, Secretary of State under the Reagan Administration

Your taxes are paying for this war, and all wars. They are paying for the ongoing and intense U.S. military buildup taking money away from important domestic budget items such as education, health care, alternative energy, the arts, and more. 51% of every tax dollar goes to the military. See the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org) for more information.

There is an alternative!

Come learn about war tax resistance.

The Ithaca War Tax Resisters will be showing the film *An Act of Conscience*, a documentary about war tax resisters on Saturday, April 14th, from 2-4 p.m. at the Tompkins County Public Library corner of Green and Cayuga Sts. in Ithaca.

The film is 85 minutes long and will be followed by a discussion with long-time war tax resisters. Contact the Ithaca War Tax Resisters at 607-256-9733 or [moongoddessmary58@yahoo.com](mailto:moongoddessmary58@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Books thru Bars of Ithaca

Books thru Bars of Ithaca is a local volunteer-run organization that sends books to prisoners free of charge from its library of donated books. We receive requests for books from prisoners, who generally have limited access to education and books. During 2006 alone, we mailed over 2800 books to more than 1200 prisoners.

We get requests for every possible kind of book and therefore all books are welcome, especially soft cover books in reasonable condition. But the ones we most often \*cannot fill \*are soft cover Spanish/English dictionaries.

Then we always are short on soft cover English dictionaries, Black literature and Black non-fiction, current text books at all levels including legal text books.

We also get requests from people who are about to leave prison and want "how to books" to prepare themselves: books on automotive repair, \*motorcycle repair,\* carpentry, electricity, how to start a business, etc.

Many prisoners are uplifted by nature books and a few copies of National Geographic are very welcome.

PS we are non-profit and books can be dropped off in our office above Autumn Leaves Bookstore on The Commons during their business hours.

Books thru Bars of Ithaca (BtB) \*[www.btbitthaca.com](http://www.btbitthaca.com)\*

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## Minutes of the March 2007 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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*Tom Brown, Clerk*

*Nancy Gabriel, Assistant Clerk*

*Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk for the day*

*Steve Mohlke, treasurer*

*(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during the Meeting.)*

### 200703.1 Gathering:

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on March 11, 2007, in the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:35 p.m., twenty F/friends settled into worship.

The minutes of the February Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were read and today's agenda reviewed.

Clerk stated that the Meeting is in a state of transition. He requested that Meeting follow Quaker Process by waiting to speak until recognized by Clerk and specifically by addressing remarks to Clerk or to the Meeting as a whole. @

### 200703.2 Changes in Meeting dates:

#### **Minute**

1. Easter Sunday fall on the second First Day of April, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Sunrise Meeting for Worship will take place at the Hector Meetinghouse at 6:30 a.m.

2. April's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on April 15, 2007

3. Mother's Day falls on the second First Day in May, therefore Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will take place on May, 20, 2007. Approved @

#### **Minute**

Ministry and Oversight was requested to review the June date for Monthly Meeting due to the second First Day conflict with Spring Gathering and report back to Monthly Meeting. Approved @

### 200703.3 Report from Ministry & Oversight:

Nancy Gabriel reported that Ministry & Oversight had received a request for a Clearness Committee for Marriage from Simon St. Laurent and Angelika Rumberger.

#### **Minute**

Ministry & Oversight recommended the following for the Committee: Tonia Saxon, Convenor, Steve Mohlke, and Beth and Martin Jolles. Approved @

Nancy Gabriel read the Revised State of the Meeting Report for 2006. It was suggested the first sentence of the fifth paragraph on the first page be amended to read: "Ithaca Monthly Meeting continues to struggle with interpersonal conflicts arising from the discussions around owning a year-around Meetinghouse." The revised report, as amended, was Approved. @

### 200703.4 Peace Witness Committee:

Elizabeth Schneider read a proposed minute. The proposed minute was amended to read:

"The Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the Interfaith Peace Vigil (March 16) and the Tompkins County Marches for Peace (March 17).

Each of these events was organized by the coming together of local organizations, peace groups, faith communities and individu-

als to mark the 4th year of war in Iraq by calling for a county-wide mobilization. These events will be addressing:

- the illegality of the war
- the honoring of those who have died
- the wars consequences for our communities
- the growing threat of war with Iran

Our Peace Witness Committee is listed as a cosponsor of both events. We would propose that our monthly meeting choose to alter those listings to Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends." Approved as amended. @

### 200703.5 Minute of Process:

Tonia Saxon read an introduction and then the draft Minute of Process as requested at the December 2006 Monthly Meeting and written by Tonia Saxon and Steve Mohlke after receiving input from Meeting. Clerk invited general responses to the Minute.

Clerk requested that we contemplate this proposed minute of process over the next month and revisit it at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in April. Clerk requests we send comments to Tonia Saxon or Steve Mohlke. Friends expressed the hope that the minute could be a first step toward reconciliation and moving forward. @

### 200703.6 Treasurer's Report

Steve Mohlke reviewed the balance sheet for February. Friends received the report. @

At 2:20 p.m., F/friends continued their silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 15, 2007.

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## Ministry & Oversight continued from page 7

ity to focus their attention toward a deep inward listening to the movement of the Spirit of God in the meeting for worship. Their attitude of deep listening helped the meeting as a whole to center down in worship."

\* \* \*

For me the most precious moment of the M&O meeting every month comes at 8:30, when the other business of the committee is laid aside and we gather in silent worship to hold the Meeting—with special care for the ill, the troubled, and the bereaved—in the Light. It is difficult to know what to say about catastrophe, sickness, or death, but there is truth in silence. Silence is at once the most comforting response and the one that brings us closest to the mystery of God.

\* \* \*

Far from carrying out the bulk of the Meeting's pastoral care, M&O does only a part of it. Many members and attenders of our Meeting call each other, check up on each other, bring each other meals, and give each other rides. One member of our meeting in particular does more than her share of pastoral care. Her name is Bronwyn Mohlke, and for several years now she has organized meals and childcare through several dozen family crises. She tirelessly and cheerfully calls people to ask for help; after she begins to make phone calls, meals are delivered and care is administered. She knows more of the Meeting's attenders and members than any of the rest of us, knows our childrens' names and ages, and often remembers whose birthdays are coming. There is no name for what she does, and she does not get thanked enough. To have her among us is a special blessing.

# April 2007 Calendar

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## Weekly Events:

**Every Tuesday 9-9:20 pm** Worship in your own home

**Every Wednesday 7:15 pm** Midweek meeting for worship at the Burt House

**Every Thursday 4:30 pm** Peace vigil from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at the bottom of East State Street

## Events This Month:

**Apr 1 Sun 10:30 am** Intergenerational Meeting for Worship

**11:00 am** Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room, and go to First Day School classes: Infants - 3 year olds in Café, Pre-K 3-4 year olds in G3, Suzanne Guthrie's room (the Episcopal Chaplain's room); Kindergarten and first grade in Café, 2nd - 4th grade in Room 314. 5th - 7th grades in Hillel Library, ground floor. Power Quakers study group (ages 11 - 18) meet in the Church of the Latter Day Saints room on the third floor on the first and third first days of each month. For more information about the Power Quakers, call Melanie-Claire Mallison (272-1108).

**Rise of Mtg** Social Justice Committee meeting in the café. All interested are encouraged to attend.

**Rise of Mtg** Dish-to-pass brunch, and annual Egg Hunt at the Murphy/Hess home \*\*\*

**Apr 4 Wed 1:15 - 3pm** Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

**Apr 5 Thur 6:00** Dinner and discussion with Jerry Elmer, Vietnam-era draft resister, anti-war activist, former Co-Director of the Rhode Island AFSC office (brought to us by the Peace Witness Comm.) \*\*\*

**Apr 7 Sat 5:30 pm** Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion \*\*\*

**Apr 8 Sun 6:30 am** Easter Sunrise Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse

**8:00 am** Breakfast at the home of Nancy Gabriel and Marion DaGrossa \*\*\*

**10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

**11:00 am** Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room - see note on April 1

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

**7:00 pm** Second Sunday Celebration Circle / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

**Apr 10 Tues 7:30 pm** Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

**Apr 14 Sat 2:00 pm** The Ithaca War Tax Resisters will be showing the film "An Act of Conscience", a documentary about war tax resisters / held at the Tompkins County Public Library

**Apr 15 Sun 9:30 am** Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee meeting, Hillel Library, Anabel Taylor Hall.

**10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

**11:00 am** Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) - see note on April 1

**12:30 pm** Note the change in date for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Bring a sandwich and a half, if you're so inclined, to share with those who may have forgotten. Child care provided on request (contact Ginny Gartlein 272-3471)

**Apr 19 Thur 6:45 pm** Sixth and final session of A Journey Through Quaker Business: It All Ends with Meeting for Worship / held at the Burt House \*\*\*

**Apr 21 Sat 3:00-6:00 pm** Tea party at Chris and Melissa's home \*\*\*

**Apr 22 Sun 10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

**11:00 am** Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) - see note on April 1

**Rise of Mtg** Light brunch. Please bring finger foods to share.

**Rise of Brunch** Social Justice Committee Presentation and Discussion - Please join us for an empowering look at the ways that we can help reduce greenhouse gases and learn to live in ways that help us and the earth. Cul de Snack Café.

**Apr 24 Tues** May newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the May newsletter (see contact information listed below).

**7:15 pm** Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road \*\*\*

**Apr 26 Thurs 3:00 pm** Presentation by Marcie Finlay on issues such as NYS health care proxy, a living will, and powers of attorney / held at McGraw House, 221 South Geneva Street \*\*\*

**8:30 pm** As part of the Ministry and Oversight committee meeting, Friends will be held in the Light at 8:30. Those not on the committee are welcome to hold Friends in the light at that time as well.

**Apr 28 Sat 1:30 pm** Steve Gaarder will share his Quaker Journey in his home \*\*\*

**Apr 29 Sun 10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

**11:00 am** Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) - see note on April 1

**Apr 30 Mon 7:00 pm** Meeting Historian, Tom Brown, will share information about the History of Ithaca Monthly Meeting / held at the Burt House \*\*\*

\*\*\* = more details will be found in the announcement section of the newsletter