



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

May 2007

CONTENTS

Announcements: 2-5
Events in Wider Quaker Circles: 5-6
Minutes of the April 2007 Meeting for
Business: 7
Calendar of Events: 8

IMM DIRECTORY

Clerk:

Tom Brown
5 Rockwell Road
Newfield, NY 14867
Tel: 272-5554

Ministry and Oversight:

Rini Clarkberg
150 Giles St.
Ithaca NY 14850 // Tel: 277-9364

Treasurer:

Steve Mohlke
52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 277-4183
smohlke@lightlink.com

Newsletter:

Bronwyn Mohlke, editor
52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 277-4183 // bjm9@cornell.edu

Elspeth Rhodin, distribution
222 Miller Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 273-7062

Larry Clarkberg, graphic design
Tel: 277-9364
larry@elucid8design.com

Burft House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 North Willard Way,
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 273-5421

Child care on request:

Ginny Gartlein: 272-3471

Website:

www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org

A Movement of Conscience

by Marilyn Ray

*"I told them that I lived in that
life and power that takes away
the occasion for all war."*

—George (Fox, Journal 1694)

*"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 pay-
ing for war violates our religious
conviction. We will seek ways to
witness to this religious convic-
tion in each of our communities."*

—(NYYM, Spring Sessions,
Endorsed 4/16/06, item #2006-
04-11)

Since our earliest beginnings the Peace Testimony has been central to our Quaker beliefs. Indeed, the Religious Society of Friends is one of only three "peace churches" recognized in the U. S. As Friends we try to find ways to witness for Peace in our daily lives. But in the face of the war in Iraq entering its fifth year, it is very easy to feel powerless and not know how to bring our Peace Testimony forward.

I am writing here as Clerk of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting's Conscience and War Committee (FSRM-CAWC) with the generous assistance of Elizabeth Schneider. FSRM-CAWC is reaching out to all Meetings in the Region, and to others who oppose war for reasons of conscience, to start a Movement of Conscience. We are suggesting that all of us, no matter what our age, do the work we ask our young people of draft age to do, that is, write a statement of conscience and then take actions that support the beliefs in that statement.

Conscience is an inward knowledge of right and wrong with a compulsion to do what is right. Devoting time, thought, and energy to writing a statement of conscience helps us think through and articulate our opposition to war. What are our beliefs about war? What exactly does our conscience tell us to do with our opposition to war? Where does this belief come from? Are there things we are called upon to do, or not do, as expressions of this belief? Are there laws in our country that make us act in ways that violate our beliefs? Am I really a Conscientious Objector to war? If so, what am I called upon to do?

Nadine Hoover (Alfred MM, member FSRM-CAWC) has suggested that a Movement of Conscience might help us bring to fruition a Peace Tax Fund into which Conscientious Objectors (COs) could pay their taxes so that their money would not be used for anything that supports war or war-making. As a first step, she suggests individuals each write a statement of conscience to help determine if (s)he really is a CO. These statements could then be delivered to our political representatives to support the Peace Tax Fund.

F/friends of all ages in Ithaca Monthly Meeting are encouraged to think about what it means to conscientiously object to war and whether they really meet the definition to be considered a conscientious objector to war. The Selective Service Act says: "Beliefs which qualify a registrant for CO status may be religious in nature, but don't have to be. Beliefs may be moral or ethical; however, a man's [sic] reasons for not wanting to participate in a war must not be based on politics, expediency, or self-interest. In general, the man's [sic] lifestyle prior to making his claim must reflect his current claims."

continued on page 8

Announcements

Do you have something for the June newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the June newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Monday, May 21 (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 or after meeting for worship on May 20).

Would you like to receive this newsletter in pdf form each month?

For those of you who would like to receive this newsletter electronically as a pdf attachment, you may sign up by going to <http://lists.ithacamonthlymeeting.org/mailman/listinfo/imm-news>

Wedding of Simon St. Laurent and Angelika Rumberger / Saturday, May 19

Simon St. Laurent and Angelika Rumberger will be married under the care of our Meeting at the Hector Meetinghouse on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00pm. The oversight committee for the wedding consists of Melissa Travis-Dunham, Chris Dunham, Melody Johnson, Dick Crepeau, Tonia Saxon, and John Levine.

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.

Meeting for Worship

Friends – as you know, we have a new practice of asking those who arrive after 11:00 to wait to enter meeting for worship until the children leave for First Day School classes at approximately 11:15. We now have a room where Friends who arrive late may gather to start worship, and then join the others in the Edwards Room at 11:15. If you walk past the Edwards Room and then turn right, proceed down the hallway to the last door on the right.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, May 5

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, May 5th 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.

Adult Discussion about Mother's Day's origins / Sunday, May 6

Discussion Sunday May 6 at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Rm 314. Mother's Day conjures images of cards, flowers, and a lavish brunch buffet at a local restaurant. But the origin of the holi-

day was a proclamation written by Julia Ward Howe calling for a Mother's Day of Peace.

In May 2006 Donna Beckwith wrote a guest column for the Ithaca Journal highlighting the peaceful beginnings of Mother's Day which sparked discussion among F/friends during a discussion at the Burt House. Join us the week before Mother's Day when we'll re-read Ms. Beckwith's column and share our thoughts on Mother's Day and memories of our mothers. While this is scheduled as an “adult discussion” participants of all ages are welcome.

Intergenerational Meeting for Worship / Sunday, May 6

An intergenerational Meeting for Worship is held at 10:30 on the first Sunday of every month in the Edwards Room. Friends of all ages are encouraged to come. If you would like to lead one of these intergenerational meetings for worship, please get in touch with Ellie Rosenberg, 277-1024.

Peace Witness Committee meeting / Tuesday, May 8

Peace Witness Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 PM at the Burt House. We will be addressing how we bring our peace testimony into action. This month that discussion will include the leading of an Ithaca Friend. All are welcome to attend.

Second Sunday Celebration Circle / May 13: Honoring Our Mother

Jody Kessler leads the Second Sunday Celebration Circle on the second Sunday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Henry St. John Building. Share in a deep, devotional, participatory experience that weaves together various elements of worship from many traditions: uplifting songs and sacred chants, prayers, poetry and inspirational readings, guided meditation and silent reflection, a short talk exploring a spiritual topic, simple, participatory ritual designed to integrate the teaching, an opportunity to share from the heart, in supportive spiritual fellowship.

We will spend this Mother's Day evening expressing gratitude for our many mothers: the women who raised us (our biological and adoptive mothers), our spiritual mothers (saints, goddesses, heroines, teachers, and the many women who have inspired us in our lives), and the Mother Earth that embraces us all. You are invited to bring a picture or object that represents Mother to you. It can represent the mother who raised you or a spiritual mother. We will create a beautiful altar to honor all our wonderful mothers. Feel free to bring more than one item if you wish, and if you can, bring your mother in person! Adults and teens welcome.

Anniversary Celebration

This month also marks an anniversary for us. It is the second anniversary of the very first of these monthly celebration circles. And, it is the one-year anniversary of the official formation of the Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship! So, we hope you can join us for a celebratory cake after the celebration circle to welcome in a third year of our growing spiritual community.

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.

Exploring whether you are a Conscientious Objector / Tuesday, May 15

All F/friends are invited to an Evening Exploring Whether you are a Conscientious Objector to War, and if so What That Calls You to Do. Everyone is invited to join Marilyn Ray and Elizabeth Schneider at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at the Burt House to hear stories from F/friends who demonstrated to the government's satisfaction that they are conscientious objectors talk about how they did that. Participants will also have an opportunity to begin their own statements of conscience, and to discuss what they may be lead to do once they have clarified their thoughts about their own opposition to war. The evening will also provide an opportunity to discuss the Movement of Conscience and the Peace Tax Fund. Marilyn will be leading a workshop on this subject (with Tom Joyce from Perry City MM) at Spring Gathering and would very much appreciate F/friends' assistance May 15th as she starts planning for that workshop. (Please also see the front page article on this subject.)

Quaker Writers' Group / Thursday, May 17

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 17, from 7:00-9:00 pm. We decided to have a suggested topic each month, this month it was: When I Was a Child, write together for 30-40 minutes and then share what we have written. The results were extremely varied and interesting. Next month we will meet at Simon St Laurent's and Angelika's, 1259 Dryden Road, 256-5334. Since it will be two days before their wedding, our topic will be weddings and marriages: fictional, philosophical, autobiographical, etc.

If you find Thursdays to be impossible for you, there are some other writers who are in the same boat. Let me know. I'll put you all in touch, so you can set up a meeting date that is better for your schedules.

—write on, Melody

Quaker Earthcare Witness Hollister Knowlton / Saturday and Sunday May 19 and 20

Please join the Social Justice Committee in welcoming Hollister Knowlton, a Friend with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) as she joins us on Saturday May 19 at 6 pm for a dish-to-pass at the Burt House. Dinner will be followed at 7 pm with a presentation about QEW's work. Hollister will share with us how other meetings are addressing earthcare concerns.

Hollister will also lead a discussion on Sunday morning, May 20, at 9:30 am in room 314 about QEW. We will discuss how Ithaca Monthly meeting can take advantage of QEW's knowledge in promoting earthcare and how we see our meeting contributing to the earthcare effort in our meeting, locally, and in the wider community. Please notify Carol Mohler if you need childcare for either event.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Change in date: May 20

Please note the change in date of our meeting for worship with attention to business in May. It will be held on the third Sunday of the month, May 20, in order to avoid Mother's Day.

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.

As of the printing of this newsletter, it was not clear whether meeting for worship with attention to business will be held in June (and if it is, it will be held some time other than after meeting for worship on the second Sunday of the month, so as not to be in conflict with Spring Gathering of the Farmington Scipio Regional

Meeting). Announcements will be made once a decision has been reached, or you may get in touch with our clerk, Tom Brown.

Book release and reading by Rebecca Barry / Sunday, May 20

Rebecca Barry (Barbara and Frank Barry's daughter) has written a book entitled "Later at the Bar" that will be released by Simon and Schuster on May 8. The Bookery II, in Dewitt Mall, will host a reading by Rebecca on Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 pm. Rebecca and her husband and their two sons live in Trumansburg.

Meeting for Healing / Tuesday, May 22

To pray is to let go of your belief that you are in control of your life, and to give it over to something more inclusive than your own point of view. It requires a leap of faith. Even if you have only the slightest sense that a higher power is at work in the world, you can still pray. Sometimes I pray using other people's words. Sometimes I pray in silence. Sometimes prayer feels to me like the last resort, an act of throwing up my hands and saying, "You take over now!" Sometimes it feels like a cry of hunger of thirst. Rumi says, "Don't look for water. Be thirsty." Prayer is allowing ourselves to be thirsty; it is a longing for something we just cannot seem to find. The Sufis say that our longing for God is God's longing for us. In this way, prayer is like a conversation between friends separated across time and space.

One of the reasons I love prayer is that it is an antidote to guilt and blame. If we are unhappy with the way we have acted or been treated, instead of stewing in self-recrimination on the one hand, or harboring ill will toward someone else on the other, prayer gives us a way out of the circle of guilt and blame. We bring our painful feelings into the open and say, "I have done wrong" or "I have been wronged." And then we ask for a vaster view—one that contains within it all the forgiveness we need in order to move forward.

—Elizabeth Lesser

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 May 22. 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.

Change in time and location of meeting for worship / Sunday, May 27

Friends—the end of May is when we return to our summer meetinghome. From Sunday, May 27 through the end of September we will gather for meeting for worship at 10:30 at the Hector meetinghouse on Perry City Road.

Directions: Take Rt 96 north towards Trumansburg about four miles past the hospital to the corner where Victoria's Garden Shop is on the left. Turn left there onto Perry City Road. The Hector Meetinghouse is on the right about a mile up Perry City Road.

PLEASE NOTE: F/friends are asked to park only on the same side the Meetinghouse is on, and to leave space for people to access and exit from driveways (do not park within two car lengths of our neighbors' driveways).

Ithaca Monthly Meeting Camp / June 25 – 28

Plans have begun for our sixth annual camp to be held on our Route 79 property from June 25 to 28. Details will follow in the June newsletter, but do mark those dates! There are plenty of ways to be involved, and it's a great way to get to know the children of our Meeting. For more information, please contact Rini Clarkberg, 277-9364 / mec30@cornell.edu

Minute on Torture from the Social Justice Committee

Friends—the Social Justice Committee will bring this minute to our meeting for worship with attention to business in May.

The Social Justice Committee of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends finds torture immoral, illegal, and abhorrent. Torture steals the humanity of the tortured, the torturer, and those who have knowledge of it. We believe in the sanctity of life, a faith that arises from our experience that there is that of God in everyone. This Light helps us to see our face in the strangers face. Fear and denial cause us to forget our deep connections with one another. Only when we are willing to surrender to the Light, individually and corporately, can we eliminate the roots of torture.

CALM is Looking for:

(1) A Child Activities Person for the Summer

CALM would like to find someone who has experience in working with pre-teen children who would be interested in providing activities for our children this summer during Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse. We are attempting to provide a richer experience for our children over the summer when First Day School is not in session. This person would be responsible for helping Corinne set up the outdoors space before Meeting for Worship and cleaning up and putting things away after Worship. Pay will be determined based on experience and the responsibilities the person is able to take on. There will be at least one adult to help supervise the children, but the person we are looking for will plan and lead the activities for the children of all ages. Corinne will continue to care for the 0-3 year olds. All interested applicants should be encouraged to send information to Marcie Finlay at marciefinlay@hotmail.com before May 15, 2007.

(2) A New Child Care Person for the end of the Summer and for Next First Day School Year

Corinne Everhart, our wonderful child care person for the last several years, is getting ready to go away to school next fall and will be leaving her position with us sometime this summer. We are looking for person to keep our children ages 0 through 3 occupied during Meeting for Worship and to do child care during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and various evening programs. Again, pay will be determined by age and experience.

If you know anyone—perhaps someone who baby sits your children, or the child of friends, or a college student—who is reliable and who can be consistent over the year, please have them contact Marcie Finlay at marciefinlay@hotmail.com before May 15, 2007.

First Day School E-mail list

For those of you who would like to receive e-mail messages about First Day School activities, you may sign up by going to: <http://lists.ithacamonthlymeeting.org/mailman/listinfo/fds>

To Karl Schantz

—with love, Ann Rhodin

4/22/07

Goodbye gentle soul, goodbye friend
In the passing of the night
I want to hear you chuckle
From the other side
Now that you are free
From pain and dilemma

I know that you are listening
I miss your eye your hand your thoughts
I've said goodbye to others before
In the advent of being friends
Coming and going in an album of photographs

Fast forward to a comfortable place
Hold on. let go. a preplanned deja vous
Turning unpleasant to pleasant
In appreciation of what occurs
A memory in motion

Mission Statement for the Peace Witness Committee

From Minutes of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends May 11, 2003

A Committee for Peace Witness will be established, to consist of at least five persons approved by the Meeting in accordance with normal procedures, for the following purposes:

1. To provide a focus in our Meeting for peace witness and to encourage and support the leadings of Meeting members and attenders working for peace.
2. To seek ways to cooperate with community groups working nonviolently for peace, and with nearby Monthly Meetings, to develop and promote non-militaristic responses to violence.
3. To cooperate with new peace initiatives of other organizations of Friends in order to implement peace witness efforts more broadly in our region.

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: Marion DaGrossa has a new address: mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com

The Mystery of the Lost Theater Curtains Continues

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

Two new books in our library

There are two new books in our library by Marjorie Hill Allee: *Susanna and Tristram* and *Road to Carolina*. These books, written between 1929 and 1932, are long out of print, and we have been fortunate to find them for our lending collection.

Through the experiences of Quaker orphans, *Susanna and Tristram*, we get a glimpse into Quaker life of the mid-nineteenth century. Although they are fictional, *Susanna* (age 16) and *Tristram* (age 8) in the first book, all of the other characters in the story are real people and the events all actually happened. Amid exciting

adventures and great danger with the Underground Railroad along the Ohio River, Susanna and Tristram give us wonderful insight into Quaker family life, Quaker courage, religious conviction and witness, and testimonies in practice.

In the second book, *Road to Carolina*, Susanna and Tristram are about ten years older. The Civil War has broken out and Quakers are experiencing the deepest challenge to their testimony of nonviolence. Men are being conscripted and women are taking on the men's work in the fields. Food is scarce and everywhere there is hunger. Transportation and communications are so disrupted that family members lose contact. Susanna and Tristram find themselves separated by great distance when the war breaks out. As they struggle to keep in touch and to take care of each other, their lives are touched by many other people, some Quakers and some not.

Upon following the events of this book, one may want to trace the travels of the characters with a map and a Civil War atlas—or maybe not—because it is a wonderful and exciting read all of its own account.

Written for teenage readers, these stories will also prove very satisfying for adults, and they are perfect for family read-aloud material. I first met these books when I was about ten years old. They were my very first introduction to Quakerism, and needless to say, I was profoundly affected. It is with much pleasure that I introduce them to our library collection. They can be found on the PEACE book case in the Meditation Room in the Burt House.

As with all the books, please sign the borrower's card in the pocket and leave it in the card box until the book is returned.

—Wilma Brown, for the Library Committee

Lasers First Day School Class Earth Day Participation

Larry Clarkberg, teacher of the Lasers First Day School Class, shares the following about the Lasers' participation in Earth Day:

I just donated \$25 to the American Friends Service Committee in the name of the First Day School Lasers (5th to 8th graders) of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting. We gathered \$22.25 (which I rounded up to \$25) from cookie sales at the Earth Day event at Farmer's Market. Yay!

Thanks to everyone who came. Some brought cookies (often made with local ingredients) and some brought tea. Surprisingly for mid-April, we discovered that the day was not suitable for hot tea, but much more suitable for splashing in the lake. It was also suitable for selling cookies since the food vendors one expects to find at Farmer's Market were not in attendance. Since ours was one of only a few booths selling food, people happily bought big handfuls of cookies and we sold out within half an hour.

We shared the booth with our gracious hosts, the TCLocal organization. They study how local economics will change when the worldwide supply of oil peaks and the price of oil steadily increases. One of their flyers reads "Peak Oilers: Alarmists or Realists?" Hopefully their steadfast activism rubbed off on us a bit.

I have applied for a booth in the Sustainability Fair at the Ithaca Festival on Sunday June 3rd so that we can have a similar event there. I'll keep you posted how that goes.

—Larry Clarkberg

Ruth Yarrow Scholarship Fund at the Cayuga Nature Center

Many families are currently making plans for the summer. This is complicated for some in our community by the cost of day camps. The Cayuga Nature Center continues to offer scholarships in honor of Ruth Yarrow, former member of our Meeting. Might you consider making a donation to enable a child to go to

camp who otherwise might not have the opportunity? Each week of camp costs approximately \$200 per child.

"The Ruth Yarrow Scholarship fund was established in honor of Ruth, a much-loved naturalist here at Cayuga Nature Center who has relocated to the northwest. CNC is committed to bringing urban and rural children together to develop their awareness, appreciation, and responsibility for the natural world through recreation and environmental, agricultural and outdoor education. The Scholarship Fund is dedicated to Ruth Yarrow's ideal of giving children, especially those with limited resources, the chance to learn and grow in a natural setting. Contributions may be sent to Cayuga Nature Center, 1420 Taughannock Blvd., Ithaca, NY 14850, and earmarked for the Ruth Yarrow Scholarship Fund."

News / Events in Wider Quaker Circles

Right Use of Money: Living Our Values / Spring Gathering, June 8 - 10

Ithaca Monthly Meeting is coordinating Spring Gathering of the Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting this year, to be held the weekend of June 8 – 10. Spring Gathering is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Friends from other Meetings in our area, as well as to engage in discussions with other Quakers.

The number of Ithaca Friends who have attended Spring Gathering has been growing the last few years, and we hope that even more Friends will join us this year. Those of us on the planning committee would be glad to answer any questions you may have (our names are listed below).

We could use some help during the weekend with a variety of tasks, including:

- assist during registration on Friday afternoon/evening
- someone (or two) to organize display tables and help folks set up and take down
- a few "runners" for helping out as issues as they arise
- set up folks to help get gathering spaces set up for events and workshops, etc.
- trash pick up around the camp
- someone to lead a morning birding walk
- someone to lead some intergenerational games on Saturday afternoon

Please contact any of us on the Planning Committee if you are willing and able to lend a hand: Rini Clarkberg, Ginny Gartlein, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Bronwyn Mohlke, and Marilyn Ray.

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 May weekends can be found in the April newsletter.

Diving Deep: A Writing Master Class May 4 - 6

The Gifts We Bring To Swing May 11 - 13 (by our very own Melanie-Claire Mallison!)

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

Original Play -For High School And Older June 1 - 3 led by Fred Donaldson

Imagine a world with no blame, no fault, no revenge, no conflicts. Such a world of kindness and peace may seem unbelievable to adults, but children have shown me that it is not unlivable.

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

What's It Matter Anyway June 8 - 10 (4th to 6th Grade)

What matters to you and what doesn't? What's important and what's not? Are the answers different for everyone? Can we find some that we all agree on? We'll play with these questions in games and small group discussions and big group activities. Plus enjoy the woods and waters of PoHo. Fee: \$100

Living From The Divine Center: A Contemplative Retreat June 15 - 18

Linda Chidsey

In A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly writes:

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a Holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life (p. 29).

Linda Chidsey, a member of Croton Valley Meeting, is a recorded minister in New York Yearly Meeting. She carries a concern for spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Linda has recently served as clerk of NYYM.

Cost: \$210 adults, \$105 ages 13-22, commuters \$105

Don't Box Me In June 22-24 (7th to 9th grade)

We label. We get labeled. When that happens, we lose and others do too. We'll talk about why we label, what labels we use and how to unlabel ourselves and others. We'll also spend time really letting go - running like wild people through the muddy maze or jumping into a clear but chilly pond. This weekend was snowed out in March, so we're going to try it again in June. Vinny Lomoriello will be co-facilitating with Chris.Fee \$100.

Unwinding 2007 June 28 - July 1 (10th - 12th grade)

Facilitated this year by Alex Haines-Stephan and Karilyn Valesko, it's still a weekend about all-night movies, munchies and more. Beginning Thursday, bask in the warmth of PoHo friendships and spirit. There will be workshops plus time to reflect, to play, and to converse. Participation will be limited to 25. Priority will be given to those who've attended one or more conferences during the year. What movies would you suggest? Send in your movie recommendations with your registration. Fee: \$150 (3 Nights)

Building a Conscience Movement / Rochester Friends Meetinghouse June 15-17

Does your conscience object to paying for war? Please join us in building the conscience movement. We will learn the language of conscience and active pacifism and ways to share these ideas with others. We will discuss public actions, legislative work and judicial challenges to military taxation. We will share stories about our fears, our sufferings and how following our consciences changes our way of life. Share the joy of moving toward a life of wholeness and non-violence.

—*in faith, Nadine Hoover*

2007 Gathering of Friends / June 30 - July 7, 2007

This year's Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends will be held June 30 - July 7 at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI. The theme is "...but who is my neighbor?" Registration and scholarship requests must be postmarked or submitted on-line no later than May 31. For more information, go to www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/

Dear Friends,

In these challenging times—with a lingering war, immigration rapidly changing the world, the Society of Friends grappling with what it means to be a truly inclusive community—the Spirit calls us to consider the story of the Good Samaritan. We invite you to the 2007 FGC Gathering of Friends to consider the theme "... but who is my neighbor?"

This question, and the Good Samaritan story that followed, is as relevant and challenging to us now as it was to those to whom Jesus spoke. Who is God calling us to see as our neighbor—as individuals and as a Religious Society? Can we see ourselves as wounded persons in need of assistance?

Opportunities for challenge, growth and refreshment abound at the Gathering. From early morning outdoor worship to late-night dancing, your day will be filled with an array of choices that can open your heart, mind and body to the Spirit that embraces and heals all of us. We look forward to seeing you at River Falls.

—*Marian Van Dellen, Cynthia Bartoo, Rich Van Dellen*
Co-clerks, 2007 Gathering of Friends

Marcus Borg, our Thursday evening plenary speaker, believes that Jesus told parables to spark discussions. The Clerks of the Gathering hold this same hope as we consider our theme: "... but who is my neighbor?" We invite you to use the theme and the Bible passage from which it is drawn for personal reflection and discussion in your meeting.

Adult leaders for 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage needed now

Applications for adult leaders for the 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Scotland, Ireland and England are now being received. Deadline for potential leaders from the Section of the Americas to apply is May 15th, 2007. Information and the application form are available from our <<http://www.fwccamericas.org> website or by contacting the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) office:(215) 241-7250 / QYP@fwccamericas.org / 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

The FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is a month-long experience of God, Quaker faith and history, and community. It draws 28 young Friends ages 16-18 from the Section of the Americas and the Europe and Middle East Section. The pilgrimage will run from July 18-August 15, 2008. Please pass this message along to Friends you think would make good leaders.

2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Scotland, Ireland and England / July 18 - August 15, 2008

Up to 28 young Friends ages 16-18 during the pilgrimage will be guided by four adult leaders. Half the pilgrims and leaders will be from the Section of the Americas and half from the Europe and Middle East Section.

An FWCC youth pilgrimage is an opportunity to...

- Develop your relationship with God
- Gain understanding of Quaker process
- Explore Quaker history
- Experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship
- Form a community and lasting friendships
- Participate in a service project

Minutes of the April 2007 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc.

Tom Brown, Clerk

Nancy Gabriel, Assistant Clerk and Recording Clerk for the day

Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(@ signifies that the minute has been read and approved.)

200704.1 Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) met on April 15, 2007 in the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell University campus for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40 PM, twenty F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read from the historical Minutes of Ithaca Meeting, noting that the Clerk in 1948 had minuted the need for Ithaca Friends to understand the differences among themselves. In a weekend conference held in Feb. 1949 to examine these differences, Friends considered that "difficulties within a Meeting can be caused either by problems of personality or by differences of belief, or by a combination of these. All Friends are liable to flaws of personality.... Yet Friends understand the virtues which are the opposites of the faults, and need not so much to discuss those virtues as to develop them into habits."

Clerk asked Friends to recommit to making Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business a safe place for all, in the spirit of the article by Christopher Sammond in the current issue of SPARK: the conflict of ideas is good insofar as differences of ideas are stimulating and we can avoid focusing on differences of personality. @

200704.2. Process Minute and Worship Sharing

In considering the second draft of the Process Minute, Clerk reminded us that the intent of writing it was to get a broadly stated basis of what has happened in IMM over the past few years. It is not so much intended for approval as a document, as for agreement on common ground from which to move forward. Some suggestions were made for changes in the text, and Friends are invited to send any further comments for the final version of it to Steve Mohlke or Tonia Saxon. We transitioned into worship-sharing on the Queries which had been published in the agenda:

- Should IMM take some steps toward reconciliation and restoring a wholeness to our Meeting?; and
- If Yes, what steps do you think would be helpful?

A summary of the (anonymous) notes from the worship sharing will be transcribed and considered by Ministry and Oversight. @

200704.3. Clearness Committee for Marriage

Beth Jolles reported for the Clearness Committee for Marriage for Simon St. Laurent and Angelika Rumberger. The committee recommended that Simon and Angelika be married under the care of the Meeting. APPROVED. The committee recommended the following for a Committee of Oversight for the marriage, scheduled for May 19 at the Hector Meetinghouse: Melissa Travis-Dunham, Chris Dunham, Melody Johnson, Dick Crepeau, Tonia Saxon, John Levine. APPROVED. @

200704.4 Ministry and Oversight

Elsbeth Rhodin brought several items from M&O:

1. Meeting for Worship will move to Hector Meetinghouse on May 27, per our usual practice.

2. In response to Meeting's request that M&O to consider the conflicts on the Sundays of June to set a date for business meeting, the committee recommended that there be no Meeting for Business that month; that would mean that business meetings would be held on May 20 and July 8. The decision was tabled until May business meeting;

Friends with suggestions for alternate dates in June should contact any member of M&O.

3. The committee will be reviewing the decision to shut the doors of the Edwards room at 11:05, and asks for input from all Friends about their experience of the effect this decision has had on the Meeting. @

200704.5. Naming Committee

Nancy Gabriel reported for the Naming Committee, whose charge is to recommend people to fill vacancies on the Nominating Committee. Their recommendations of Melody Johnson and Wendy Wolfe were APPROVED. @

200704.6. Social Justice Committee

Clerk brought forward two concerns from the Social Justice Committee related to the Kitchen Cupboard and the Feinstein participatory grant for the month of April.

1. SJC recommends that meeting donate \$250 to the Kitchen Cupboard from their budget line that requires IMMRSF approval. APPROVED.

2. SJC heartily endorses putting the donation basket for Kitchen Cupboard on the table at Meeting for Worship for the remaining Sundays in April. APPROVED.

In the absence of a presenter from SJC, the third concern, for a minute on torture, was laid over until May business meeting when it can be more fully explained. The proposed minute will be put into the May newsletter. @

200704.7 Peace Witness Committee

Elizabeth Schneider reported for the Peace Witness committee. The following Minute was presented for IMM consideration:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting supports the Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting Conscience and War Committee's initiative, called a Movement of Conscience. When a young person wants to establish himself or herself as a conscientious objector, he or she must develop a file to assert clearly to the U.S. government his or her beliefs regarding opposition to war. Because the Conscience and War Committee believes that conscientious objection is a life-long journey, they are encouraging adults to develop such a file. This process would help each F/friend clearly think out his or her beliefs, how those beliefs were formed, and how those beliefs are demonstrated in life. Creating such a file may be only a first step for some F/friends who wish to present their files to political representatives in support of a peace tax fund. APPROVED

The goal is for Peace Witness to take the concerns for the Movement of Conscience Initiative and for the Peace Tax Fund to wider Friends' circles and to community groups. @

200704.7. Treasurer's Report

Steve Mohlke gave the monthly Treasurer's report Ithaca Monthly Meeting received this report. @

200704.8. Spring Gathering Report

Bronwyn Mohlke reported for the Farmington-Scipio Regional Spring Gathering Planning Committee, for which IMM has responsibility this year. The topic has been established: "Right Use of Money: Living our Values"; and the schedule is set with Carolyn Hilles as plenary speaker and workshop leader along with Penny Yunuba. The budget and registration materials are complete. Future updates will specify needs for volunteers. @

At 2:40 PM, nineteen F/friends gathered into worship before adjourning.

We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on May 20 2007 in the Cul de Snack at Anabel Taylor Hall after the rise of Meeting for Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

—Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk for the day

May 2007 Calendar

Weekly Events:

Every Tuesday 9-9:20pm 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

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 ***

May 2 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

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

May 6 Sun 9:30 am Adult Discussion on the origins of Mother's Day / Room 314, Anabel Taylor Hall

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.

May 8 Tues 7:30 pm Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

May 13 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 – see note on May 6

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

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

May 15 Tues 7:00 pm Discussion on conscientious objectors / at the Burt House ***

May 17 Sat 7:00 pm Quaker Writers' Group / at the home of Simon and Angelika ***

May 19 Sat 2:00 pm Simon St. Laurent & Angelika Rumberger to be wed under the care of our Meeting ***

6:00 pm Dish-to-pass supper at the Burt House followed by

7:00 pm Presentation by Hollister Knowlton, a Friend with Quaker Earthcare Witness ***

May 20 Sun 9:30 am Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee meeting, Hillel Library, Anabel Taylor Hall.

9:30 am Presentation and discussion led by Hollister Knowlton, a Friend with Quaker Earthcare Witness ***

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 May 6

12:30 pm 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 (see above.)

May 21 Mon June newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the June newsletter (see contact information listed below).

May 22 Tues 7:15 pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

May 24 Thurs 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.

May 27 Sun PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10:00 am Singing, Hector Meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship, Hector Meetinghouse

10:45 am Children meet outside

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

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

Movement of Conscience continued from page 1

To begin this process, during the Month of May Peace Witness Committee and I will be hosting gatherings where F/friends can learn about writing a personal statement of conscience and what we can do as a Meeting to support different types of witness activities. We will talk about the three questions which must be answered by people who wish to be officially recognized as COs, and the other materials that are used to support such a claim. What individuals decide to do with their statements will, of course, be a matter of personal choice. The insights developed from writing such statements will be sufficient for some, while others may wish to use their statements in a variety of different ways, including using them to assist in the Movement of Conscience and passage of a Peace Tax Fund.

By approving the minute on the Movement for Conscience proposed by Peace Witness Committee at the April Monthly Meeting, IMM has joined this idea. (See Minutes of Monthly Meeting for 4/15/07 elsewhere in this Newsletter.) At the 2006 Spring Gathering Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting approved a minute that "continued to reaffirm the Peace testimony and recognize that conscientious objection to war is a lifelong journey" (Emphasis added.) If entering into this process sounds like the right step in your journey, please join us at a gathering to discuss these issues on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 pm at the Burt House (see the announcements section for more details).