



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

**November 2007**

**CONTENTS**

Announcements: 2-8  
 Minutes of the October 2007 Meeting  
 for Business: 8-9  
 Calendar of Events: 10

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**Servant Leadership: A Path In the Workplace**

A Pendle Hill Weekend Workshop, February 2-4 2007

by *Melissa Mueller*

In February 2007, I spent a rejuvenating weekend at Pendle Hill, the Quaker study center outside Philadelphia. When I arrived on Friday, there was a light dusting of snow on the ground and the old stone buildings looked placid and beautiful. The campus is a quiet oasis surrounded by the noise and traffic of the Philadelphia suburbs. I was welcomed at once by the staff and full-time students (imagine spending a whole year at Pendle Hill!) and fed delicious homemade food.

The text for our workshop was the pamphlet *The Servant As Leader* by Robert Greenleaf. Greenleaf had worked for AT&T and felt that most of the leadership models our culture had been using were not working—they left people hurting in the workplace. He began to realize that those who seem to be leaders can actually be servants. There is now an organization, the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, which holds conferences and publishes “The International Journal of Servant Leadership.” Their website is [www.greenleaf.org](http://www.greenleaf.org).

For two days, our group of about twenty examined what Servant Leadership means for the self, for others we serve, for the task we are managing, and for the resources we steward (within an organization or beyond). Here are some of the points I found most resonant and inspirational

**Self**

- We must lead from a place of wholeness, from our sublime self. Be the model of fullness.
- When we live and think with our

Sacred Mind, we have great power as agents of change.

- It’s important to have an open, teachable spirit.
- Beware of “distortions”—those negative messages we feed ourselves that keep us from stepping into the work we’re called to do.
- There may be people above me who have more power. But ultimately, I’m accountable to God.
- “If we believe we can, we can. If we believe we can’t, we won’t. Either way, we’re right.” --Henry Ford

**Others**

- A Servant Leader is Servant first, then Leader.
- It’s important to know whom I’m trying to serve. Do they want my help? The privileged should help, but let the alienated and deprived lead.
- The best test of whether something is servant leadership is: “Do those being served become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or, at least, not be further deprived?”
- We serve that of God in the other person.
- A Servant Leader isn’t a doormat. Sometimes we need to communicate our disappointment—for instance, that the other person didn’t live up to their potential—but never our condemnation.
- Love God first, then yourself, then others and the Creation.

continued on page 9

# Announcements

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## Do you have something for the December newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the December newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Tuesday, November 27. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). The December newsletter will be available on December 2.

## Midweek Meeting for Worship / Wednesday nights at the Burt House

Midweek Meeting occurs each Wednesday night at the Burt House at 7:15 PM with 30 minutes worship and 30 minutes of discussion. The discussion sometimes goes longer but it is understood that anyone who needs to leave at 8:15 PM may do so.

## Peace Vigil / Thursdays at 4:30

Our Thursday afternoon vigil for peace has been continuous since the US invaded Iraq in March 2003. Every week, in all types of weather, at least a few from our Meeting have been at the foot of State Street quietly holding signs. This vigil is an ongoing statement of the Quaker belief that violence is not the only route to solving serious human conflict.

Join us for the hour, or even for 10 minutes. (Some of us are usually only able to come for a few minutes after work.) You can bring a sign with your own message or choose from an assortment of signs already there.

TIME/PLACE: Every Thursday 4:30 - 5:30 PM at the bottom of East State Street (between Challenge Industries and CSMA). See the photo on page 10.

## Sandra Steingraber: From Lipstick to Sofa Cushions: What We Know about Chemical Hazards in Consumer Products and What We Can Do About Them / Thursday, November 1

Dr. Sandra Steingraber, ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, will offer a talk, "From Lipstick to Sofa Cushions: What We Know about Chemical Hazards in Consumer Products and What We Can Do About Them," at Home Green Home on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 7pm. (location details below)

Recent scandals involving Chinese-made toys have focused attention on the regulatory system that monitors chemical hazards in U.S. commerce. This talk will describe the history of that system and the ways in which new science is mounting a challenge to its efficacy. Changes in chemicals policy in the European Union further spotlighted holes in the safety net here in the United States. Of particular consideration will be the impact of chemical mixtures from consumer products on reproductive health and children's development, including pubertal timing in girls.

Dr. Sandra Steingraber is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. Her highly acclaimed book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment* was the first to bring together data on toxic off gassing with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. Sandra's most recent book, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, explores the intimate ecology of mother-

hood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, *Having Faith* reveals the alarming extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each crucial stage of infant development. Formerly on faculty at Cornell University, Sandra Steingraber is currently Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

Home Green Home is committed to ensuring that everyone can and should have a beautiful home that is health-supporting, nature-connecting and rejuvenating. To this end, the staff makes available home goods that are mindfully and sustainably crafted. Home Green Home is located at 215 The Commons, Ithaca, NY, 14850. For more information about this event and the store, please call (607) 319-4159 or email [rena@homegreenhome.com](mailto:rena@homegreenhome.com).

## Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, November 3

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.

This month we welcome Sufi singer Mahbud Burton who will present "Music as a Path to Peace: a Sufi Perspective".

Please join us on Saturday, November 3rd at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion 7:00 - 9:00. Come to either or both. For more information, call (607) 582 7305.

## Sing before Meeting for Worship

Friends come join us for singing before Meeting. We use the Friends Hymnal, *Worship in Song*, which has an excellent selection of a wide variety of songs. We'll be happy to sing your favorites, and you'll be able to learn some new ones.

## Thoughts on the beginning of Meeting for Worship

Our last Meeting for Worship at Hector for the year was a tender one. I was particularly aware of the sweetest part of my own settling-in process, which is scanning all the faces of those present and feeling that thankfulness for each and every one. (My farm-kid memory reminded me of how the mother hens would gather the chicks for rest.) I understood that for me there is no substitute for this part of the process--I really can't center into worship without wrapping myself in "that of God" all around me. (Am I the hen or the chick?) It isn't utter silence that I need, just the presence and unity of Friends settling and quieting ourselves from activity.

So I realized why it seemed so important to me, at last month's M&O committee meeting, that we keep trying to find a way to safeguard that fragile early period of worship--and it's not just for the children. As the parent of an ADHD son, I will never lose my gratitude and amazement for whatever it was that eventually brought that wiggly little boy to the place where he could sit and be interested in the silence for [almost] fifteen minutes. And I've seen it happen again and again among Ithaca's children. But it's mostly for us--small, medium, and large; young and old--that I hope we can unite in our appreciation of those precious minutes. To ease the practice of not entering the Edwards Room between 11:05 and 11:15, M&O

has arranged a conducive space in the Episcopalian lounge (around the corner and down the hallway). This offers a transition from the hassles of getting ourselves into Anabel Taylor and then going to the gathered silence that our Friends will have created.

—Nancy Gabriel

## First Day School Classes and a message from Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM)

Greetings from the Children and the Life of the Meeting committee! While in First Day School (FDS) classes this year, our children will be exploring three themes: Quaker history, Quaker Testimonies and Practice: What Quakers Believe and Do, and Living a Quaker life today. On those Sundays when Ithaca school vacations make it more likely that we will have fewer students, we will be joining all children together (“Café gathering”) to enjoy stories, crafts, and activities in the Café. This includes November 25, December 23 and 30.

CALM is working to develop a helpful trove of ideas, books, activities, stories, and crafts that can aid our teachers in exploring our lives as Quakers. To that end, we would like to hear about your favorite experience/activity/story that we might include as a possibility for our children at some age level. Do you remember a particular activity that worked well? Can you help us/show us/tell us how we might do it?

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have ideas for our children, skills you would like to share, or concerns of any nature regarding the ways our children are involved in the life of our Meeting: Marilyn Ray, Marcie Finlay, Ellie Rosenberg, Kathy Beissner, and Michael Trotti.

## Greensprings Presentation / Sunday, November 4

On Sunday, November 4, Mary Woodsen will give a presentation on Greensprings, a natural burial cemetery just south of Newfield. (9:30 a.m., in Room 314).

Why natural burial?

Natural burial is a new idea—the idea that in choosing how and where we are buried, each one of us can conserve, sustain, and protect the earth... the earth from which, of course, we came and to which we shall return.

At Greensprings, we have these goals: to provide a commonsense, traditional, sustainable alternative to contemporary

burial—an alternative that respects you, your loved ones, and your bank account.

At the same time, natural burial offers you the opportunity to give something back to the land and to the life that springs therefrom. Your burial at Greensprings will help create a legacy of enduring stewardship and renewal, a legacy that provides a place of peace and beauty for generations to come.

In fact, burial at Greensprings will provide the opportunity for each person, each family who is part of Greensprings to learn about the land, and to take personal pride in helping to restore the land that will be their eternal home.

So you can see that while Greensprings is a cemetery, it won’t look like one. Instead, it will look very much like a nature preserve with trails meandering through. And in place of those endless rows of somber stone, simply—trees. Wildflowers. Wind in the grass.

Yes, you may see, here and there, flat stone markers—fieldstones, unearthed as a grave is dug, then inscribed and laid flush with the earth or bought, perhaps, rough-cut from a local quarry.

But markers aren’t required. We hope that people will choose to have a native tree or shrub planted at Greensprings. Some may be happy with that alone... for the real memorial is the

Ages	Group	Location	Teachers	CALM Liaison
0-2			Ariel Mohler	
3 years old – preschool	Candle Kids	Ladies Lounge, Ground Floor	Jody Enck, Heather Ruff, Sue Ruff, Caitlin Loehr	Marcie Finlay
Kindergarten – 2nd grade	Sunbeams	Café	Ellie Rosenberg Rini Clarkberg	Ellie Rosenberg
3rd grade – 4th grade	Flames	315	Jeff deCastro Sandra Steingraber Wendy Wolfe Beth Jolles Mary Balfour	Michael Trotti
5th grade – 7th grade	Lasers	Café	Larry Clarkberg Lynn Podhaski	Kathy Beissner
8th grade – 12th grade	Power Quakers	LDS office, Room 320	Janis Kelly	

renewal of the earth itself.

Indeed, the enduring and literal gift that each of us makes through burial here is in sustaining and renewing the earth so that our children and theirs may find here the natural beauty that we all love so well.

### Stewardship of the Land

Right now, at the beginning, Greensprings is nearly 100 acres of rolling hilltop meadows, a place on the edge of wildness. It is bounded on three sides by 8,000 acres of protected forests.

The land’s so rocky and dense it really shouldn’t have been farmed. The majestic forest that stood there once is gone, but you can help to restore it. Your burial at Greensprings will help create a legacy of enduring stewardship and renewal, a legacy that provides a place of peace and beauty for generations to come.

We’ll help most of the land at Greensprings to return to a classic old-growth forest. The rest will be mowed every three years or so to benefit certain birds like the meadowlarks, Henslow’s sparrows, northern harriers, and bobolinks that need open meadows.

That’s why stewardship is at the heart of everything we do and believe in at Greensprings.

For example, invasive species are a monumental problem these days. They cost billions of dollars in lost agricultural, forestry, recreational, and fisheries productivity. Each year, invasive species take a greater toll on the national economy than all the floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes put together.

You can help check the spread of invasive plants, helping protect the integrity of our meadows and returning forest at Greensprings.

Greensprings has plants like multiflora rose, Tartarian honeysuckle, autumn olive, and garlic mustard—plants that mostly come from other parts of the world, that aren't native to this ecosystem or to the natural checks and balances that evolved with native plants.

These plants threaten our meadows and forests. They push out native plants and often fail to provide food for wildlife throughout the seasons.

In fact, though invasives may be camouflaged with pretty flowers and sweet scents, they are nearly as deadly to wildlife habitat as pavement is.

Luckily, we don't have too many invasives yet on Irish Hill... mainly some multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and autumn olive scattered here and there, and a planting of Norway spruce. These plants need to be removed before they spread much further.

But because we'll be burying in land that's already been disturbed and damaged by years of plowing and erosion, we can use the ground disturbance of burial to our advantage. Burial provides the opportunity to remove invasive plants, to replace them with native trees and shrubs.

Trees and shrubs like Juneberry, hickory, black cherry, black walnut... trees and shrubs that will provide cover and food for wildlife such as ruffed grouse, fox, turkeys, bears, and more...

In fact, burial at Greensprings will provide the opportunity for each person, each family who is part of Greensprings to learn about the land, to take personal pride in helping to restore the land that will be their eternal home.

And there'll be opportunities for nature walks and picnics to learn about land restoration, and work parties to take out the invasives.

And chances for schoolkids and scouts and 4-H'ers and all of us to do things like gather nuts and seeds, then press them into the earth with our heels on a damp autumn day after a rain... and come back next year and watch and see how (or even if) they grew... to learn, is this a good way to restore the land? Or should it be done differently?

This is a grand experiment—an experiment in learning how this new approach to stewardship can not only restore Irish Hill, but be a small but important part of a national movement that marries traditional burial with saving the land. We invite you to join us. The Greensprings Website [www.naturalburial.org](http://www.naturalburial.org) includes a link to a video of interviews of the people directly involved with GreenSprings and the problems with modern cemeteries and the environment, and a link to an article and video when GreenSprings was featured on the CBS Sunday Morning News television program.

Directions to Greensprings: Take Route 13 south to Newfield. Take the left hand turn into Newfield. Approximately 1/4 mile south of village, bear left on VanKirk Road. Continue south 4 miles; where Van Kirk bends nearly 90 degrees to left, slow down, then go straight onto Irish Hill Road. Continue 1-1/4 mile to Greensprings.

## **Interfaith Music Celebration / Sunday, November 4**

Interfaith Music Celebration, Sun., 11/4, 3:30 p.m. Circle the date on your calendar to come and enjoy a program presented by area congregations of many faiths at First Presbyterian Church. Through the joy of music this community event will bring us together in unity even as it demonstrates and lifts up our rich diversity. Open to the public; a free will offering will be taken for ACT (Area Congregations Together) to distribute to community service projects. The event will be followed by a time of socializing and a light supper.

## **Quaker Writers / Thursday, November 8**

Quaker Writers are meeting on Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 pm at Simon and Angelika's home (1259 Dryden Road / 277-8105). The topic will be UPSTATE 2050. All are welcome to join us. Call Melody 272-8755 for more info.

## **Fall Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting / November 9 - 11**

Friends, remember that Fall Sessions (formerly called Representative Meeting) take place earlier now. Fall Sessions for 2007 will take place Nov. 9 - 11 at Purchase meetinghouse and at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, N.Y. The registration deadline is Oct. 30; after that date the registration fee increases from \$15 to \$25. In addition, parents will be responsible for the care of any children not registered by Oct. 30.

September *Spark* said: "Fall Sessions carries on the business of the Yearly Meeting between our annual sessions at Silver Bay. Active participation is needed for the life and witness of the Religious Society of Friends to grow. The attendance and involvement of Friends from all monthly meetings ensures that the wisdom of a variety of Friends will be brought to our business sessions, and that the decisions made there will be reported back to the meetings."

If you have not yet registered, please go to [www.nyym.org/events/fallsess07](http://www.nyym.org/events/fallsess07), fill out the registration form, and e-mail the form to Janet Hough. Bring the check for your registration fee with you to Fall Sessions.

To go directly to the Registrations section of Fall Sessions on the Web site, go to [www.nyym.org/events/fallsess07#reg](http://www.nyym.org/events/fallsess07#reg).

## **Training for Counseling Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation / Saturday, November 10**

Training for Counseling Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation

For those who:

- Want to respond to New York Yearly Meeting's call
- Are conscientiously oppose war
- Want to witness against and resist military taxes

Want to counsel others well on opposing military taxation

COME Saturday, November 10

10am - 6pm

Rochester Friends Meetinghouse

84 Scio St, Rochester, NY

Facilitated by Ruth Benn of the National War Tax Resisters Coordinating Committee; sponsored by the Farmington-Scipio

Regional Meeting's Conscience & War Committee

Lunch and a simple dinner provided by the FSRM-CAWC

Please register with: Tom Joyce (607) 277-7426 or Donna Beckwith <dmbeckwith@yahoo.com>.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Sunday, November 11**

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on November 11. 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.

## **Second Sunday Celebration Circle / November 11**

Second Sunday Celebration Circle

Second Sunday of every month, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Adults and teens welcome.

Sunday, November 11th 7 PM

### **Activism as a Spiritual Path**

How does activism toward peace, justice, and social change deepen our lives spiritually? Activist and Ithaca College Political Science Professor Beth Harris will speak about how these areas converge in her life, and we will invite each person to reflect on how activism can be a spiritual path. Music and meditation will be used to help us deepen into the heart as we explore this question.

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 / November 13**

The Peace Witness Committee will meet on November 13, the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 at the Burt House. Join with others as we work to bring Friends' Peace Testimony into our lives and our community.

## **Visit from Fahima Vorgetts / November 13-14**

Fahima Vorgetts was born in Afghanistan. While a graduate student she directed a literacy program for women, but she left her home during the time of the Soviet invasion. She married an American and raised her children in this country. She remains a Muslim.

In her words, "Afghanistan haunts me. It is my country, and my heart breaks for my sisters who undergo daily oppression and hardship there. My passion and life's work is to reclaim and rebuild the country so that women can be free and equal, and can live a life of dignity, literacy, and financial stability."

From the Salem Awards: "As part of her long time commitment to the women and children of Afghanistan, Fahima raises funds through speaking engagements and sales of Afghan hand-crafts. Several times each year Fahima travels to Afghanistan. She has opened new schools for girls and literacy classes for women. She has created income-generating projects for widows, helping them become self-sufficient, and arranged for the shipment of medical supplies to Herat women's hospital. She has distributed warm clothing and school supplies to refugees in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan. Her efforts have touched the lives of thou-

sands of women of all ages and ethnicities."

Fahima will be our guest for two days in November - the 13th and 14th. She will speak, show slides, and sell rugs, shawls, and jewelry from her homeland. Details on when and where she will talk were yet to be determined at the time the newsletter went to print. For more information, please contact anyone on the Social Justice Committee (Marjorie Baines, Barbara Barry, Margaret McCasland, Carol Mohler, or Sue Ruff)

## **Quaker Basics / Sunday, November 18**

It's time again for Quaker Basics, our adult education program designed to help F/friends understand a little more about Quakerism and Ithaca Monthly Meeting. All F/friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Program Committee has decided to try a different approach with Quaker Basics this year. We will be focusing on one topic a month from October through May (but skipping December because it's such a busy month). Discussion will be held on Sunday afternoons after the rise of Meeting for Worship. If you require childcare, please let a member of Program Committee know by the Wednesday before the session.

On November 18 from around 12:45 pm until 2:45 pm Esther Darlington will lead us in a discussion of Quaker Testimonies.

## **Give Thanks with ACT! / Sunday, November 18**

The ACT (Area Congregations Together) Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will be held Sunday, November 18 at Forest Home Chapel at 3:00 p.m. For more information call Kay Wollney 273-5075.

## **Thanksgiving Day Meeting for Worship / Thursday, November 22**

We will have meeting for worship at the Hector meetinghouse on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22, at 10:30 a.m. There will be a fire, but Friends may want to bring extra warm clothes or blankets.

## **Meeting for Healing / November 27**

Welcoming the Transcendent into our lives and relationships gives us strength to acknowledge our limitations and to seek clarity in recognizing where/when we are called to respond. The spirit helps us know when we should say "no" and when we should say "yes". It helps us know when to seek support or relief in meeting responsibilities. Devotion to following Divine guidance can help us to be fair to others when perhaps we would rather blame them, find fault with their suggestions or write them off as not helpful or reliable.

The more we care for ourselves, the more we are able to give due consideration to others. The more we set limits, the more we can give. The more we surrender our desire to take on the burdens of others, the more Light we enable the other to experience. The less committed we are to our own envisioned outcome, the more we are able to make way for the experience of the Light by ourselves and by others.

*The sacrifice we are called to make is not of our own well-being, or of our self, but of our ego, our power, our control, our attachment to our desire outcome of result.*

—Martha Bush, Central Philadelphia Meeting

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 November 27. 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.

## **Faith and Practice Adult Discussion Group / Sunday, December 2**

More exciting news from the program committee! We are offering another learning opportunity in addition to Quaker Basics monthly program offerings. Beginning in December and monthly thereafter (through April) we will be offering readings and discussion from NYYM Faith and Practice. The sessions are will be the first First Day of each month from 9:30 am to 10:45 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314 (third floor meeting room). Bring your own copy of Faith and Practice or there are copies available for purchase in the Edwards Room and at the Burt House (books bearing a price tag are for sale; books bearing a lender's pocket inside the cover are intended for borrowing). At the Burt House Faith and Practice books are located on the shelf with Quaker Basics materials (top shelf – right hand side as one enters the living room). In the Edwards Room, they are located on the Library shelf on the maple book rack. In each location, there is a container for depositing money and a card box for putting in the lenders card if you borrow a book. You can also find copies of Faith and Practice online at: <http://www.nyym.org/quakerism/fnp/>

The first session topic will be "In Silence, In Solitude and In Prayer" on Sunday December 2, 2007 at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314. Please read ahead if you can.

## **Threshold Choir**

Threshold Choir is a small group which meets once a month to rehearse and for the past few years, we have been singing once a month at Lakeside, with residents that are bed-bound. We also sing with Carolyn Mallison, a member of our meeting who is no longer able to attend worship. We welcome new singers and try to arrange our meetings to suit everyone's schedule. Call me if you'd like to come. Melody Johnson 272-8755

## **Congratulations to Doug Shire and Jody Kessler**

Doug Shire and Jody Kessler were married on October 7. Congratulations Doug and Jody!

## **A Quaker Concern; Crisis in Ithaca High School**

In the past two months we have been reading about the racial tensions in the Ithaca High School culminating in the decision by the Board of Education to challenge the right of the Division for Human Rights to investigate this situation. Unfortunately this is only a surge to the surface of a long standing problem with racial and cultural inequities in the school system and in the community at large. Quakers have a long tradition of acting as peacemakers in such situations and there have been several effective programs developed to encourage positive discourse and understanding. This is an excellent opportunity to put Quaker practice into action. A thoughtful and well planned initiative to engage everyone in dis-

cussions of the issues could be a way of changing the climate of our community. The Social Justice Committee will be discussing this at their November 4 meeting. Anyone interested in being involved in this effort should contact Barbara Barry at 533-7563 or [fb12@cornell.edu](mailto:fb12@cornell.edu).

## **A Proposal for the Meeting to Assist Newly Arrived Iraqi Families**

Dhia Abed Waheed, an Iraqi man who served as a translator for the U.S. Army for four years in Iraq, has moved to Ithaca with his wife, Aseel, and their two children, 33 month-old Abdullah and 16 month-old Fatima. As many as three other translators' families are expected to settle in Ithaca in the next few months. Dhia's story was reported in the October 18th issue of the Ithaca Journal, which also included a description of how an Ithacan, Maura Stephens, was able to get the family out of Iraq.

Maura Stephens recently met with a joint meeting of Social Justice and Peace Witness committees to discuss the needs of these Iraqi families and ways in which the two committees might be able provide assistance. Social Justice and Peace Witness plan to present a proposal to the next Business Meeting, November 11, asking that a refugee support committee be formed to care for and assist families such as Dhia's, which have gained asylum in Ithaca. More information about the need and the proposal will be made available well before the meeting.

## **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>](mailto:<bjm9@cornell.edu>)

### **Corrections:**

Lynn Grove has a new e-mail address [l\\_grove\\_87@hotmail.com](mailto:l_grove_87@hotmail.com)

Corinne Everhart: 175 Penns-Grove Auburn Road Apt. # 1209 Carneys Point NJ 08069 / (856) 299-4159

The Camp Family (James, Elie, Ryan, and Shay) 120 River Bend Dr., Apt 827, Georgetown, TX 78628 / (512) 818-9884 / [eliejean@mac.com](mailto:eliejean@mac.com) / [jamescamp@mac.com](mailto:jamescamp@mac.com).

Betsy Keokosky has a new phone number: 277-1284

Sarah Gardescu / 20 Lenox Ave, Albany NY 12203 518-641-2060 mobile

Margaret McCasland: 511 First Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / home: 272-2544 / cell: 351-1892

### **Additions:**

Jim Russell / 13 Bush Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 257-7456 / [jbr8@cornell.edu](mailto:jbr8@cornell.edu)

Lisa Goodlin and her son Miguel Goodlin-Saenz (born 5/11/92) attend Syracuse Meeting, and will join us for meeting for worship twice a month. Lisa's partner is Mario Saenz. Their address is 201 Milnor Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13224 / home phone (315) 446-3068 / cell phone (315) 450-4337 / Lisa's address is [mail2@lisagoodlin.com](mailto:mail2@lisagoodlin.com), and Miguel's is [pallidsoulfire@yahoo.com](mailto:pallidsoulfire@yahoo.com)

## **Message from the Camp Family**

The Camp family (James, Elie, Ryan, and Shay) have re-settled in Texas: "We have a very nice apartment in a family-oriented 'apartment community' in my hometown of Georgetown, about 30 miles north of downtown Austin. The view from our patio is a real disappointment after a year in Ithaca, but the neighbors are nice

and there is a playground on the premises. There's also a really nice riverfront hike-and-bike trail that the boys have been learning to bike on." (see new address in the directory updates section).

James shares the following with us: "I thought it might give our IMM Friends a bit of hope on the Meetinghouse front to know that it took Friends Meeting of Austin 15 years to decide on a Meetinghouse strategy, acquire a space, and finally move into a new home. Their solution (I don't feel enough a part of the group to say 'our' solution yet) was actually a bit of blessed serendipity: a local partner church (St. James Episcopal) was outgrowing their present space at a similar time and so after many long discussions and visits, FMA made an arrangement to take over (buy and renovate) the old St. James Episcopal "campus" as they moved their church and small Montessori School into a newly constructed facility. I am of course not trying to suggest that the same way forward would work for IMM; rather, I am pointing out that with much patience, many clashes of opinion, and a concerted effort to keep an open mind, a way opened for FMA in a quite unexpected direction. No doubt a Way will open for IMM as well!"

## **SPARK – newsletter of New York Yearly Meeting**

The theme of the September issue of SPARK is Holding the Earth in the Light. It includes articles such as Radical Quaker Stewardship in the 21st Century, How Does the Stewardship of All Creation Relate to Our Practice as Friends, Living Up to the (Green) Light We've Been Given, and the Earthcare Message to Annual Sessions. It is available online by going to [www.nyym.org/spark/](http://www.nyym.org/spark/). If you would like to receive a paper copy of SPARK, contact the New York Yearly Meeting Office (212) 673-5750.

## **Powell House**

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.

Upcoming weekends include:

November 9-12: Touching the Divine – A 3 Day Writer's Workshop (Lisa Grant)

November 16-18: I Love to Tell the Story – Friends in the Spirit of Christ weekend (Ann Davidson)

November 30-December 2: Retreat for Alumni of the "Drawing Out Gifts" Series (Christopher Sammond)

December 14-16 Building the Blessed Community I

December 30 – January 1: Cherish Family & Friends – Intergenerational New Year's Celebration

Friends – that's just enough to spark your interest! For those of you who would rather talk with someone in person rather than look for more information on the Website, give Melanie-Claire Mallison a call—she'd love to fill you in!

## **Equal Exchange Coffee and Cocoa for Sale after Meeting for Worship**

The Social Justice Committee continues to offer Equal Exchange Coffee available for sale at the rise of Meeting each First Day, including regular coffee as whole beans or ground, decaf coffee, and hot cocoa mix. Checks, cash, and IOUs accepted. Contact Margaret McCasland for more details (351-1892)

## **America Recycles Day / Saturday, November 3**

America Recycles Day will have a Birthday Party for their 10th Anniversary at the Ithaca (Pyramid) Mall from 10 AM -4 PM. The celebration features the 4-R Superheroes, Tom McKnight, Compost Theater, games, prizes, cake, etc. Over 70 organizations will offer interactive activities around the "4R's" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rebuy) and other earth-friendly efforts in our community. Our own Tompkins County Solid Waste Management created the Superhero characters and added the 4th R (Re-buy).

## **Step It Up! Who's a Leader? Local Climate Change Action Event / Saturday, November 3**

Tutelo Park Gathering to Feature Local Officials, Honor Haudensaunee Leaders of the Past, and Highlight Peace as a Means for Reducing Greenhouse Gases

On Saturday, November 3, the public is invited to join in a local event in collaboration with the National Day of Climate Change Action. As a part of the nationwide network Step It Up!, started by author, professor and climate change activist, Bill McKibben, there will be a "Who's a Leader?" outdoor rally and education event held at 12:00 noon in Tutelo Park in the Town of Ithaca (see directions below).

Now that Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, there has been more public interest in the connection between peace and climate change. The theme of the local Step It Up! "Who's a Leader?" event will be "Where we keep the pipe of peace." The phrase is the translated meaning of the name of the Cayuga village Coreogonol, which was located near the site of Tutelo Park centuries ago. Groups working with Step It Up! across the nation will be holding events at locations that honor the examples of great leaders in the past who have responsibly managed difficult challenges. This event will honor the leadership of the Cayugas and their fellow Haudensaunee nations for their adoption of the Tutelo and Saponi peoples when they were displaced by European settlers from their own lands.

The event will include education about climate change, and information from local elected officials about what steps are being taken at the town, city, county, state and US level to meet the challenges of climate change. For more information, please see the web site at: <http://www.stepitup2007.org/>

Tutelo Park is located in the Town of Ithaca, just South of the City of Ithaca boundary, off Rt. 13A, also known as Floral Ave. in the City and 5 Mile Dr. in the Town. The park is just after the intersection with Bostwick Rd. It is a short and flat bike ride from downtown Ithaca. There are not sidewalks available along the entire route, so, walking from downtown or the bus stop on Floral Ave. is possible but not easy. Carpooling and biking recommended. The park includes two of the oldest trees in the county, a small wetland, and a ballfield-bring bats and gloves along for some November softball!

## Compost Corner

All Creatures Great and Small . . . but only decomposers in the compost, please.

My biggest composting challenge is critters, both inside and outside the house.

Fruit flies are the major nuisance indoors. If you have a fruit bowl, you probably have fruit flies. But food scraps makes it easier for fruit flies to reproduce, so a compost container may mean more fruit flies. And indoor composting (such as a worm bin) can lead to major fruit fly problems.

I keep my food scraps in an airtight container, which stays in the refrigerator when I am not preparing food. This reduces odors AND the cold temperature keeps fruit flies from reproducing.

Leaving an apple core on the counter for even a few hours (say, until the next time I'm getting my scrap container out of the fridge) attracts a cloud of fruit flies. But this "problem" is the source of one solution: a trap with apple juice or cider as bait.

A simple trap can be made using a small cup or jar, a flat plastic bag with corners (eg, a 1 quart zipper bag) and a rubber band.

Put about an inch of cider or apple juice (or wine, or fruity dish detergent) in the bottom.

Cut a large triangle across one corner of the plastic bag (3-4" long on a side).

Cut a tiny bit off the corner tip.

Open the bag to form a funnel shape.

Place the corner tip inside the glass or jar and spread the top around the rim.

Secure the top edges with the rubber band.

The flies get into the glass via the tiny hole in the bottom of the funnel, but they never seem to find their way out via the small hole. Eventually they drown in apple juice. (You need to decide the ethics of this form of pest control).

Outdoor pests are even easier to control. The primary way to keep small animals out of the compost bin or pile is to not attract them. This means NEVER composting meat or bones, seafood, dairy products or eggs. I do compost eggshells because I like having the minerals in my finished humus. But then I also have snakes and skunks hanging around the compost bin. So I need to break that habit. More on outdoor animal control next month.

*"Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 24 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream."*

—<http://www.epa.gov/compost/>

Compostable materials in a landfill produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Thus composting is one way we can slow global warming.

Please mention your favorite composting tip OR challenges to Margaret McCasland: 272-2544, 511 First St, Ithaca, or <[margaret@mccaslands.com](mailto:margaret@mccaslands.com)>.

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## Minutes of the October 2007 Meeting for Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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*Tom Brown, Clerk*

*Nancy Gabriel, Assistant Clerk*

*Steve Mohlke, Recording Clerk for the day*

*Steve Mohlke, Treasurer*

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

### 200710.1 Gathering:

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on October 14, 2007 at the Café in Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University.

At 1PM, eighteen friends gathered into silence.

The clerk read excerpts from an email from Cornell President David Skorton to Faculty and Staff. "We must reach beyond our comfort zones in order to better connect with one another and to better understand the perspectives of others."

Minutes from the September Meeting for Business were read.

### 200710.2 Ministry and Oversight

The committee recommended a clearness committee for Christianne White's request for membership. Members suggested are Tonia Saxon (convener), Nancy Gabriel, and Martin Jolles. The Meeting approved this clearness committee.

At the treasurer's request, the responsibility for allocation of IMM scholarship funds will be assumed in the future by a three-person subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight whose terms on M&O are staggered. M&O will name this subcommittee each year and notify the Meeting. For 2007 these members will be Ellie Rosenberg, Tonia Saxon, and Sue Ruff. The Meeting approved the creation of this subcommittee and these nominations.

Jim Johnson requested that Ithaca Meeting remove him from our membership rolls. Jim wrote, in part "While I have a fond place in my heart for the Friends Meeting my spiritual journey has taken me elsewhere. I am now participating fully in the worship life at St. John's Episcopal Church." Friends received this request.

M&O announced the following dates for meetings for worship during the holidays. There will be a Thanksgiving Meeting at the Hector Meetinghouse on Thanksgiving day at 10:30AM. The Christmas pageant will be on December 16.

M&O also related some of their current work. @

### 200710.3 Budget Committee

The committee presented the following minute:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting intends to set aside \$12,000 in the 2008 budget, provided this seems feasible in the context of the overall budget. This amount represents a minimum expense Meeting might expect to incur annually for operating/maintaining a meetinghouse. Until a meetinghouse is built or purchased, the money will be put into the New Building fund.

This minute was considered, discussed and approved. @

### 200710.4 Treasurer's Report

Steve Mohlke presented the Treasurer's Report (attached). The Meeting received the report. @

## 200710.5 Clerk's Report

The Clerk clarified a misunderstanding about child care at the Burtt House that arose last month. We currently have a process for requesting child care when needed for Meeting events. The contact is listed in the newsletter. @

## 200710.6 Burtt House Committee

Bonnie Tyler presented a status report on the Burtt House. Mary Balfour is the current Friend in Residence. Three of her children also live there. One of the remaining residents is an active participant in Meeting. We have a new resident this month who also participates in Meeting. The first floor, including the library, are available for Meeting use. Over the summer, the neighboring fraternity at the back of the property made some changes that benefit our property as well. They added a fence to separate the two properties and removed some trees that have opened up a great deal of light to the Burtt House. There will be a work day on Saturday, October 27, to help take care of some of the cleanup from the tree work. A recently departed resident took a special interest in painting over the graffiti that often occurs on the Meditation Chapel and nearby cement structure. Friends who have thoughts about things that should happen at the Burtt House are encouraged to contact Bonnie. @

At 2:40 p.m., Friends continued silent worship before adjourning. We intend to meet again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 11, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

—Steve Mohlke, Acting Recording Clerk

(Please note that if you would like a copy of any report mentioned above, you can receive one from the reporting committee or the Recording Clerk.)

## Advices & Queries

This month's advices and queries from NYYM Faith & Practice for your contemplation:

**Advice 6.** *Parents and older Friends are advised to be sensitive to the insights of younger people and to keep a close and sympathetic contact with them. Children are urged to love and respect their parents that all may be led together to the Light Within.*

**Query 5.** *Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?*

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## Servant Leadership continued from page 1

- "It is one of the greatest compensations in life that no one can help another without helping themselves." --Emerson

### Task

- Servant Leadership is more about how the task is done than what is done.
- Don't focus on the task to the exclusion of relationships.
- Love others through the work.
- Servant Leaders share power, information, and other resources with others
- Value beauty and excellence.
- Use tools such as empathy, listening, perception, self-awareness, concern for others' growth, community, and healing.
- "Leaders of the past knew how to tell, while future leaders will know how to ask." --Peter Drucker

### Resources

- Take care of human resources, including yourself.
- Approach every task with both a short-term and long-term perspective. Think of the impact on the seventh generation in the future.
- We are stewards of everything we can influence with a message of peace, hope, and love.
- Don't worry too much about where the resources will come from. If Spirit has given you work to do, resources will come.
- "To get what we've never had, we must do what we've never done."—Anonymous

As you can see, it was an inspirational workshop. Rubye, our workshop leader, left us with a hopeful message when she said on Sunday, "There is so much to do. All of us are needed. Listen for insight and follow your call. You will be called. The odds against any one of us being here are so great, there must be a reason why each of us is here. Confront fear. Create your highest call. Accomplish your vision."

I encourage anyone to spend some time at Pendle Hill. They have a full schedule of workshops and courses, or you can go simply as a sojourner on a personal retreat. I think you will find it peaceful and invigorating at the same time.

# Calendar for November 2007

## Weekly Events:

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

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

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

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**Nov 1 Thurs 7:00 pm** Sandra Steingraber: From Lipstick to Sofa Cushions: What We Know about Chemical Hazards in Consumer Products and What We Can Do About Them \*\*\*

**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.

**Nov 3 Sat 5:30 pm** Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by Sufi singer Mahbud Burton who will present "Music as a Path to Peace: a Sufi Perspective" \*\*\*

**Nov 4 Sun** DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

**9:30 am** Presentation on Greensprings, a natural cemetery near Newfield / Anabel Taylor Rm 314\*\*\*

**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), and go to First Day School classes (see chart for classroom locations)

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

**Nov 7 Wed 1:15 – 3pm** Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

**Nov 8 Thurs 7:00 pm** Quaker Writers are meeting at Simon and Angelika's home \*\*\*

**Nov 9 Fri** Beginning of three days of Fall Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting / at Purchase meetinghouse and at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, N.Y. \*\*\*

**Nov 10 Sat 10am-6pm** Training for Counseling Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation / Rochester Meetinghouse \*\*\*

**Nov 11 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 chart for classroom locations)  
**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD**

**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.)

**7:00 pm** Second Sunday Celebration Circle: Activism as a Spiritual Path / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

**Nov 13 Tues 7:30 pm** Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burr House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

**Nov 14 Wed 6pm** Dish to pass at the Burr House

**7:00 pm** Fahima Vorgetts will talk about her work with schools and villages in Afghanistan

**Nov 18 Sun 9:30 am** Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee meeting, Room 314, 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 chart for classroom locations)

**Rise of Mtg** Quaker Basics Session II: Esther Darlington will lead us in a discussion of Quaker Testimonies \*\*\*

**3:00 pm** The ACT (Area Congregations Together) Thanksgiving Interfaith Service / at Forest Home Chapel

**Nov 22 Thurs 10:30 am** Thanksgiving Day meeting for worship at the Hector Meetinghouse \*\*\*

**Nov 25 Sun 10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

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

**11:15 am** Children of all ages will gather in the Café to enjoy stories, crafts, and activities together

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

**Nov 27 Tues** December newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the December newsletter (see contact information listed below).

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

**Nov 29 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.

**Dec 2 Sun 9:30 am** First in a series of readings and discussion from NYYM Faith and Practice: "In Silence, In Solitude and In Prayer" / held in Anabel Taylor Room 314 \*\*\*

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



Weekly Thursday afternoon peace vigil—see page 2.