



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

December 2007

## CONTENTS

Announcements: 2-6  
Minutes of the November 2007 Meeting  
for Business: 6-7  
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@knowledgetown.com

### Burt 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](http://www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

## Supporting Iraqi Translator Families in Ithaca: Something That We as a Meeting Can Do

by Garry Thomas, on behalf of the IMM  
Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant  
Support

The Iraq War has been so incredibly devastating to so many people—Iraqis, people living in the region, Americans and others drawn into the conflict. Among the survivors of this war who have had to bear the greatest personal costs have been Iraqi translator families, people who have lost family members to assassination and been forced into exile because they were seen as collaborating with the American occupiers. At least four translator families are being settled in Ithaca now and over the next few months.

As was the case in the years during and following the Vietnam War, war refugees give names and a human face to the Iraq conflict. The presence of Iraqi families in our community also provides our Meeting with an opportunity to reach out to people who have suffered in war time in ways that we can only imagine, as the Meeting has previously done in offering sanctuary for “Esperanza,” a Guatemalan refugee during the 1980s, and more recently by housing a Burmese family in the Burt House.

Dhia Abed Waheed is one of the Iraqi translators who worked for the US Armed Forces. He, his young wife Aseel, and their children, Abdullah and Fatima, fled Iraq for Jordan and then Syria this past July, came to Ithaca in late September, and are now settled in the Fall Creek neighborhood. They are four of only 500 Iraqis who will receive these special immigrant visas to the US in

the next two years. Their special immigrant status provides for them to obtain Social Security cards and work permits, but there has been no provision for them to access the social services normally accorded refugees, including housing assistance, food stamps and healthcare benefits. There is legislation pending in Congress to correct this “oversight,” but it may take months before it is implemented. In the meantime, these expenses, as well as the costs for their transportation and visas, are being paid by their sponsors’ generosity and the volunteer efforts of others.

The Meeting’s Social Justice and Peace Witness committees became aware of the dire circumstances facing the Dhia family shortly after they arrived in Ithaca, when Maura Stephens met with the two committees at Burt House. Maura, along with her husband George Sapio, first made the acquaintance of the Iraqi translator families on trips they made to Iraq, and they were the ones who made the arrangements for the first two families to come to Ithaca. After meeting with Maura, the Social Justice and Peace Witness committees decided to ask the Meeting to consider taking on some responsibility for the Dhia family and other recent similar immigrants to Ithaca. Assisting where there is a humanitarian need and helping victims of war, we agreed, are things that Quakers do.

At the November 11 Business Meeting, the Meeting approved a Minute from the Peace Witness and Social Justice committees to form an ad hoc Working Group (under the joint care of both commit-

continued on page 7

# Announcements

---

## Do you have something for the January newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the January newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Monday, December 31. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). The January newsletter will be available after meeting for worship on January 6.

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

Midweek Meeting occurs each Wednesday night at the Burrft 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

Come join us on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30!

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 or 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).

## Singing before Meeting for Worship

Friends—we will be singing Christmas carols in the half hour before Meeting for worship in the month of December. We hope you will join us at 10:30 in the Edwards Room.

## Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, December 1

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, December 1 at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City.

This month we will watch the video “Sophie Scholl” together, exploring resistance and attempts to educate people about the Nazi regime in Germany during World War II.

Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 6:45-9:00. For more information, call 582 7305.

## 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 dis-

ussion from NYYM Faith and Practice. The sessions 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. There are also copies available for purchase in the Edwards Room and at the Burrft House (books bearing a price tag are for sale; books bearing a lender's pocket inside the cover are intended for borrowing). At the Burrft 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 “Seeking the Spirit In Silence, In Solitude and In Prayer” on Sunday December 2, 2007 at 9:30 am. The second session topic will be “Seeking the Spirit In Scripture, In Devotional Reading, in Tradition” on Sunday January 6, 2008 at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314. Please read ahead if you can.

## Peace-Building: Alternatives to Violence Afternoon Workshop / Saturday, December 8

Are you seeking creative solutions to conflict? Participants will explore constructive conflict, ways to release the pressure towards violence through empowering affirmation, respect, community building, cooperation, trust, “Transforming Power” guidelines, participatory role-plays for practice, and shared life experiences. The full weekend “basic” workshop will be described.

Although the content is oriented toward adults and older teens, ages 13 through 17 are welcome to participate with parental consent (form for a parent to sign available at the workshop). More information on the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) can be found at [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org).

Fee of \$zero to \$15, depending on ability to pay, with checks made out to “Alternatives to Violence Project”, payment at the workshop. Proceeds benefit AVP; the event facilitators are volunteers. Saturday Dec. 8th 2007 from 12:45 PM to 4:30 PM at the Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green Street (at Cayuga Street), Ithaca, NY 14850.

Please register to Sylvester Johnson at

[ContactSJ@mac.com](mailto:ContactSJ@mac.com) or at (607) 539-6193 as soon as possible. Non-profit website: [www.climatehealth.net](http://www.climatehealth.net)

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / December 9

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on December 9. 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. (See notice below of our annual meeting to be held on Sunday, January 13.)

## **Second Sunday Celebration Circle / December 9**

On Sunday, December 9th, Jody Kessler will be leading the Second Sunday Celebration Circle, at 7 PM at the Henry St. John Building.

“What’s in a Name?”

The Divine Presence is known by many names across faiths and cultures. Chanting these names is a powerful practice that opens oneself to Spirit and purifies the heart. It is believed that, when chanting, the sounds and vibrations in the body, combined with our longing for union, create powerful transformation in our being. And yet, many traditions teach us that whatever we can name is not the Eternal One, that we can’t reduce the Divine to a word or label, and that the Absolute is beyond language. In this evening’s celebration, we will explore this paradox through devotional chanting, meditation, sharing, and simple ritual, opening ourselves to the Nameless through the vehicle of the Name.

Henry St. John Building

301 South Geneva Street, 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. For more information, call 607-227-5683 or visit [www.commonheart.org](http://www.commonheart.org)

## **Peace Witness Committee meeting / Tuesday, Dec 11**

Peace Witness Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 PM at the Burt House. The Committee is open to all, as we try to bring the Quaker Peace Testimony to life in the Meeting and in the community.

## **Quaker Writers / Thursday, December 13**

Quaker Writers is a small group that gathers once a month to write together and then to read aloud what we have written. Members take turns suggesting topics, of course those suggestions need not be followed if something else comes to mind.

This month’s gathering will be at Dick and Melody’s house (112 Mount Pleasant) on Thursday, December 13, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

We encourage people to come when they can, and are always welcoming new members. Come and give it a try, you might find it suits you.

## **Floating Meeting / Carolling / Ornament Making / Saturday, December 15**

Friends, please join us for a holiday-themed dish-to-pass dinner at the Clarkberg family home at 150 Giles Street at 6pm. We hope to enjoy carol singing, and we will have materials for making ornaments.

## **Christmas Pageant and Holiday Dish-to-Pass Dinner / Sunday, December 16**

Friends—we look forward to this year’s Christmas pageant by the First Day School classes on Sunday, December 16 before the rise of Meeting for worship in the Edwards Room, to be followed by our annual holiday dish-to-pass dinner in the Café. Please bring a dish-to-pass, and perhaps your own table setting, though disposable plates and cutlery will also be available.

## **Assistance requested for the Christmas Pageant**

CALM is requesting that anyone in Meeting who any outgrown animal and other costumes suitable for use in the Christmas Pageant please consider donating them to Meeting before December 16th. CALM is trying to increase our store of such costumes and after the pageant this year will keep them carefully for future use.

For further information, please contact Beth Jolles at 272-0705. Beth will be coordinating the pageant this year. Thank you.

## **Cards for Sale at the Christmas Pageant**

As in previous years, kids from the First Day School will have cards and possibly ornaments for sale at the Christmas Pageant. All proceeds will go to the Heifer Project, which provides farm animals to those in need.

## **A Celebration of Light / Saturday, December 22**

On Saturday, December 22nd, the Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship will be holding their annual community holiday event, A Celebration of Light, at 7:30 PM at the Foundation of Light (391 Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca). Come celebrate solstice and more in an Interfaith ceremony honoring Light and the wonder of the season. There will be a contemplative candlelighting ritual honoring the many holiday traditions of the season, interwoven with singing, and followed by delicious treats. There’ll also be an opportunity during the ceremony to offer prayers & blessings for peace and healing to one another and to the planet. All ages are welcome. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested. For more information visit [www.commonheart.org](http://www.commonheart.org) or call 607-227-5683.

## **First Day School Activities on December 23 and 30**

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 multi age group activities in the Café. This includes December 23 and 30.

## **Special Meetings for Worship during the holidays**

There will be special Meetings for Worship during the holidays at the following times & places:

- Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, at the Burt House at 7:30 PM
- Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, at Hector Meeting house at 10:30 AM
- New Year’s Eve, Monday, December 31, at the Burt House at 11 PM.

## **Notice of Annual Meeting / Sunday, January 13, 2008**

Trustees announce that the annual meeting of IMMRSF Inc. will be held after the rise of Meeting for worship on Sunday, January 13, 2008 in the Café of Anabel Taylor Hall. The corporate portion of the meeting requires members and attenders to sign in, so please plan to attend at least this part of the meeting. The corporate portion will be followed by reports of all Meeting activities for the past year. It is moving to reflect on just how much our Friends do. See you there!

## Follow up to “The Lost Message of George Fox” / Sunday, January 6

Dear Friends: After Tony Gaenslen’s Quaker Basics talk on the subject, “The Lost Message of George Fox,” some Friends present asked if it would be possible to have follow-up meetings to discuss this subject further. Tony would be willing to facilitate such a meeting if at least six Friends were interested in pursuing it—for three or perhaps four sessions. A sign-up sheet will be available at Meeting for Worship. An organizational meeting will be scheduled after the rise of Meeting for worship on Sunday, January 6, if six—or preferably eight—people sign up. Or call Tony at 273-2191 and leave a message on his voice mail.

## Meeting for Healing / next one will be on Tuesday, January 22

*In the past, oppressed peoples often resorted to violence in their struggle to be free. But visionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have shown us that successful changes can be brought about nonviolently. I believe that, at the basic human level, most of us wish to be peaceful. Deep down, we desire constructive, fruitful growth and dislike destruction.*

*Many people today agree that we need to reduce violence in our society. If we are truly serious about this, we must deal with the roots of violence, particularly those that exist within each of us. We need to embrace “inner disarmament,” reducing our own emotions of suspicion, hatred and hostility toward our brothers and sisters.*

*Furthermore, we must reexamine how we relate to the very question of the use of violence in today’s profoundly interconnected world. One may sometimes feel that one can solve a problem quickly with force, but such success is often achieved at the expense of the rights and welfare of others. One problem may have been solved, but the seed of another is planted, thus opening a new chapter in a cycle of violence and counter-violence.*

—Dalai Lama

A Meeting for Healing is usually held at 7:15 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau’s house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). The next one will be on January 22, 2008; there won’t be one in December since the fourth Tuesday of December is Christmas day. 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.

## First Day School Play Scheduled for January 27th

Save the date! The Lasers, Sunbeams, and possibly other First Day School groups are planning to perform in a play at our monthly fourth Sunday dish to pass on January 27th. The play will be about the life and times of John Woolman.

## Christmas gifts / News from the Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee is doing its annual Christmas giving to the Friendship Center and OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources).

This year we will be adopting two families from the Friendship Center and providing them with gifts and food for the holiday season. A list of names, ages and suggested gifts as well as the needed food items will be available on December 2. We hope everyone can sign up for at least one item.

In addition, we will be collecting stamps, cards, small books of crossword puzzles or sodoku, small notepads and travel size toiletries. Gift bags will be made up at OAR and given to each inmate. If you wish to give money to purchase these items, that would be greatly appreciated as well.

## Announcement from CALM

CALM would like to add Gina Varrichio to the list of First Day School teachers for this year. Gina has volunteered as one of the teachers for the Candle Kids (ages 3 to kindergarten). She joins Jody Enck and Caitlin Loehr for this group’s teaching team.

## Letter to Friends everywhere from New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions, held November 9-11

Eleventh month 16, 2007

*O God, with You all things are possible.*

*Make us instruments of Your peace.*

*Help us to remember that we are Your Word in the world.*

To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings to Friends around the world, from Friends meeting for Fall Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting, November 9-11, 2007 at Purchase Meetinghouse, Purchase, New York.

We gathered under God’s presence seeking way forward as we live in a world that has become more complex through acts of aggression and violence. As people of faith we refuse to be paralyzed and silenced by the politics of our government and others. As people of faith we must pray, we must love, and we must hold hope high—bringing healing to the forefront.

During our Fall Sessions those present approved a minute that we ask you to consider as an act of faith, humbly seeking with courage to be God’s instruments of peace:

We call on Friends within New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and everywhere—whoever is able—to designate times for worship with an urgent concern to act for peace. In an environment of increasing threats against Iran and the possibility of national emergency being declared over perceived or contrived international crises, we call on Friends to speak out now. We will not be silenced as we work for peace. May we seek divine guidance that leads toward action, working whenever possible with other communities of faith. Let us endeavor to foster relationships with the people of all nations, including those opposed by our own governments. May we rise above our doubts and fears through God’s love and care.

Love, peace and blessings,

—Ernestine Buscemi, clerk of New York Yearly 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>

Additions:

The Hutchinson Family: Cheryl, Matt, Corinne (9/29/94) and Claire (1/19/98) / 206 Edgemont Drive, Syracuse, NY 13214 / (315) 446-5327. The Hutchinsons attend Syracuse Meeting, and will be joining us for worship once a month.

## In search of bicycles

Hello Friends:

We are seeking bicycles for use by the men in the Iraqi families who have recently come to Ithaca. If anyone has a bike which they could use we would greatly appreciate having it available. I could pick it up.

—Bonnie Tyler / [bmt3@cornell.edu](mailto:bmt3@cornell.edu) / 273-6084 / 342-3361

## Reminder from the Financial Planning Committee

Our Treasurer has a set up special earmarked account for the New Meeting House. Although Meeting is still laboring to determine the essential aspects of a new Meeting House, that cost, and how those funds will be raised, it is clear that we need considerably more funds than we currently have in hand. Friends are encouraged to contribute to the new Meeting House fund now and in the coming months as they are able. Simply make the check payable to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, as usual, indicate on the check or in an accompanying note the purpose of the contribution, and send to Steve Mohlke, our Treasurer.

## Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Youth Activities

Our next Farmington-Scipio region youth activity is an Arts Weekend November 30th–Dec. 2nd at Syracuse Meeting House. We will talk to Carol Baum from the Syracuse Peace Council and take a trip to the Syracuse Arts fair. There will also be time for cooperative art work. This event is for youth ages 14–17.

Jan. 19th–20th is Winter Gathering at Rochester Meeting House. We will have programming during the day for middle school and high schoolers (ages 11–18). The high schoolers (14–18) are invited to spend the night. There will be lots of time to hang out with friends. We will also participate with the adults in some spring gathering planning.

Feb. 8th–10th we are planning another Basic Alternatives to Violence Project Workshop. AVP workshops empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation, and trust. This event is for high school aged youth (14–18). The location is to be announced.

Feb. 15th–18th is the Winter Snow Adventure. It is held at the McLellan-Tornow cabin in the Adirondacks. This event is for middle school aged youth (11–13) and family members. There will be lots of fun for the young and the not-so-young. There is sledding, cross-country skiing, hiking, warm cozy fires, and lots of food!

Register with Karilyn Valesko by emailing [karilyndtm@yahoo.com](mailto:karilyndtm@yahoo.com), or calling (716) 882-6003.

## Bins vs Piles: Keeping Decomposers In and Pesky Critters Out

One of the major composting decisions is compost bin versus compost heap or pile. This decision is closely related to keeping large critters out of your compost and to keeping tiny critters—the main creators of compost—happily decomposing your food scraps.

The difference between bins and piles is simple: a bin has walls, and maybe a cover or even a “floor;” a pile or heap is open on all sides. There are many types of bins (see the link to the Green Guide below) to suit many styles of composting. Likewise, there are various ways to maintain piles. Cooperative Extension has excellent resources on composting styles and related pile and bin options.

One option is to keep a simple pile or heap just for yard waste. No maintenance needed: let it take its sweet time to decompose (this can be years).

Open compost piles with food scraps can also be easy to maintain: warmed by the sun, watered by the rain\*, nourished by layers of “browns,” and aerated by occasional turning. But they are a dinner invitation for local wildlife.

The main reason to keep “pest” animals out of your compost is if you want them out of your yard. If the only likely scavengers are already there (squirrels and raccoons), then you may be happy with an open bin or even a pile.

Raccoons truly dislike “dirty” food; simply burying your new food scraps under a layer of “browns” and partially formed compost keeps them out of your pile. Squirrels and other rodents are perfectly willing to dig through your pile to find the choice morsels. So count on sharing with squirrels if you have an open bin or pile.

Bins with secure tops, sides and bottoms are critter-proof. It can be harder to keep decomposers happy inside the bin, but that will be another column. You can get a critter-proof bin from Tompkins County Solid Waste at a subsidized price of \$30. This is a round, black plastic bin, with air holes in the sides, a top that comes off for adding new material, and a bottom grid that keeps digging animals out of the pile. My first bin didn’t have a floor, and a family of mice moved in. It now has a bottom grid.

The National Geographic has a great resource on compost products and techniques:

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Lawn%20&%20Garden/Compost%20Tools>

Once more, Cornell Coop Extension: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/compost/downloads.htm>

\*Climate change may create new composting challenges. Climatologists at Cornell are predicting more dry periods for the Northeast, so you may need to water your compost more often than in the past. Also, if you have a pile, the undecomposed scraps may not stay frozen—and thus odorless—all winter. For the last five years, I have only used bins, so comments on how piles function during warmer winters would be appreciated.

Please mention your favorite composting tip OR challenges to Margaret McCasland: 351-1892, 511 First St, Ithaca, or <[margaret@mccaslands.com](mailto:margaret@mccaslands.com)>.

---

---

## 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.

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.

GIVE AND TAKE.....6TH & 7TH Graders 12/14/2007-12/16/2007

Giving. Receiving. Giving. Taking. Giving gifts. Giving ground. Giving up. Taking off. Taking charge. Taking it all in. We'll play with these ideas. We'll practice standing firm and taking a break. We'll give it our best and give it a rest. We'll try different ways of giving and receiving throughout the weekend. And, we'll explore ways to carry what we discover back home with us. Fee \$100.

CHERISH FAMILY & FRIENDS—INTERGENERATIONAL NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION 12/30/2007-1/1/2008

This intergenerational conference is one of our most popular. We can only house 87 people, so register early! At this annual event we have activities for all ages including making snow people, ice-skating, yoga, cookie making, origami, sharing, story telling, Cabaret, building hot air balloons, and brunch on New Year's Day. Come and be a part of this intergenerational celebration. COST: Families \$400; adults \$200; youth 13-22 \$100; Infants-12 \$50; Commuters \$100 // Scholarship funds are available for this family-centered and creation-friendly event.

SILENT RETREAT "Dwelling Deep: An Extended Meeting for Worship"

*Linda Chidsey 1/18/2008-1/21/2008 (through Monday lunch.) Co-sponsored by the School of the Spirit Ministry.*

During this extended weekend, Friends are invited to enter more fully into the silence and to experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. This retreat will include the opportunity for solitude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and "active" silence. There will also be opportunities for individual and group spiritual reflection. Come and simply BE with God; listen and attend to the Divine stirrings of the soul.

Linda Chidsey, a member of Croton Valley Meeting and sojourning at Housatonic, is a recorded minister in NYYM. She carries a concern for spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Linda has recently served as clerk of New York Yearly Meeting. Cost: \$250 adults + \$10 School of the Spirit = \$260 total.

---

---

## Minutes of the November 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*

*Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk for the Day*

*Steve Mohlke, Treasurer*

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

### 200711.1 Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) met for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 11, 2007, in the Café of Anabel Taylor Hall at Cornell University. At 12:40 PM, twenty-nine F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read a paragraph from the FGC pamphlet, "Spiritual Responsibility in the Meeting for Business" by Patricia Loring, in which the author relates her experience of a Clerk's wisdom that a very heavy business agenda calls for more, rather than less, time to be spent in worship. The minutes of the October business meeting were read.

### 200711.2 Route 79 Property Committee

Route 79 Property Committee distributed a map and notes related to their work gathering information on creating better access to the property, as charged by the July monthly meeting. Mike Simkin reported on the committee's research into Meeting records and their consultations with contractors. Focusing on access from the eastern, rather than the western, "leg" seems to best address concerns for safety and cost. After discussion of Friends' questions, Meeting considered the following Minute: "Ithaca Monthly Meeting designates that the Route 79 Committee may spend up to \$12,500 for the purpose of constructing a road on the Route 79 property approximately 20' wide and 250' in length, connecting to a flat area near the head of the Penny Lane access trail. These monies will be drawn from the Meetinghouse Fund." The Minute was approved. @

### 200711.3 Joint Social Justice and Peace Witness Committee:

Reporting for the joint committee, Margaret McCasland outlined the background of the situation of the Dhia Abed Waheed family, recently immigrated to Ithaca from Iraq after receiving asylum from the U.S. government. The joint committee proposed a minute for discussion. It was clarified that this minute does not address the feasibility of making tax-exempt donations via the Meeting for Dhia's family. Clerk and others are still investigating the legal structures which might permit creation of a tax-deductible program serving immigrants. Incorporating Friends' suggestions, the following Minute was approved:

*"Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a concern for new immigrants to the Ithaca area, especially families and individuals from countries such as Iraq and Burma who have suffered severe hardship and/or danger in their homelands. Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a particular concern for the family of Dhia Abed Waheed, an Iraqi family whom we have been asked to support. We welcome them to our community, and encourage Friends to provide:*

- 1. financial contributions;*
- 2. donations of goods and services; and, most of all,*
- 3. friendly companionship.*

*The Peace Witness and Social Justice Committees will form a working committee for immigrant support. The committee will include at least one representative from Peace Witness Committee and at least one from the Social Justice Committee, plus any IMM members or attenders with a special interest in working with immigrants. This committee will also work with other individuals and organizations on this concern."*

Elizabeth Schneider offered to serve as an ad hoc coordinator of gifts Friends may wish to contribute to the Dhia family. Garry Thomas stressed the need for Friends to understand the importance of the commitment to “friendly companionship”, and the kind of personal time and follow-through required to be a “lifeline” for an immigrant family. @

#### 200711.4 Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Committee reported their decision to dispense the following from their discretionary funds: \$250 to Kitchen Cupboard (previously approved by IMM) and \$250 to the existing IMM refugee funds (approved today). @

#### 200711.5 Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee circulated a draft of the current proposed nominations for 2008, drawing our attention especially to the highlighted vacancies in the roster. All f/Friends are asked for suggestions to fill the vacancies. Nominating Committee hopes to propose a full roster for approval at the December business meeting. Nominating also asked IMM to consider what to do about the fact that there are currently no members serving on the Meetinghouse Coordinating Team. Meeting agreed that Nominating take no further steps at this time. If any business arises in the three committees formerly reporting to the Coordinating Team, they should report directly to the monthly meeting. Friends raised the question of whether a committee is still needed for the original purposes of the Coordinating Team. @

#### 200711.6 Budget Committee Report and Treasurer's Reports

Reporting for the Treasurer, Dick Crepeau informed us that corrected copies of the July and September monthly reports are available. He distributed the October monthly report and the draft 2008 budget. Chuck Mohler provided explanations and clarifications of this proposed budget. (Copies of the reports, draft, and “Notable Points” are available from the Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, or Budget Committee.) The 2008 proposed budget represents an increase of approximately 20% over 2007. Among the changes are Budget Committee's suggestion that the different repair funds for the Burt House and Hector meetinghouse should be streamlined into a single category for each building based on a standard percentage of the assessed value of each. Numerous changes are proposed for the funds which IMM donates under the Witness category. A final budget proposal for 2008 will be offered for approval at the December business meeting. Friends should make known any questions or suggestions to the Budget Committee as soon as possible. @

#### 200711.7 Ministry and Oversight

Tonia Saxon confirmed the dates and times for special Meetings for Worship at the holidays: on Christmas Eve, 12/24, at the Burt House at 7:30 PM; on Christmas Day, 12/25, at the Hector Meeting House at 10:30 AM; on New Years' Eve, 12/31, at the Burt House at 11PM.

#### 200711.8 Fall Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Region

Bronwyn Mohlke summarized events and meetings of the recent gathering at Farmington. Representatives from seventeen Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups participated in and learned about outreach and youth activities, Witness and Peace concerns, and historic enrichment.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting's proposal for adjusting the date of future Fall Gatherings will be carried over to the Winter Gathering at Rochester in January. @

At 2:55 PM, nineteen F/friends gathered into worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on December 9, 2007, in the Café of Anabel Taylor Hall after the rise of Meeting for Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

—Nancy Gabriel, *Recording Clerk for the Day*

(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.)

---

#### Supporting Iraqi Translator Families continued from page 1

tees), which will coordinate support for immigrants in Ithaca. The November 11 Minute also specifically asks that we as individuals and as a Meeting make financial contributions toward these Iraqi families' living expenses, and that we offer other forms of assistance and support to the family of Dhia Abed Waheed.

Several in the Meeting have now met the Dhia family and discussed ways in which we can offer neighborly assistance. It is agreed that addressing the family's non-monetary needs can take various forms, but would include people offering to take turns giving rides to shopping and appointments (much as the Meeting does in providing rides for family members visiting relatives in the local jail) and otherwise being available to check on the families and making sure they have things they need. We will, therefore, be soliciting names soon of volunteers who are willing to offer such forms of assistance to the Dhia family during this difficult time of navigating cultural difference.

Tax deductible monetary contributions may be made to Ithaca Monthly Meeting of Friends – and on the memo line write “Refugee Fund.” These checks can be given or mailed to Steve Mohlke, Treasurer.

The ad hoc Working Group will be also working closely with the Immigrant Services Program of Catholic Charities of Tompkins and Tioga Counties. Its Director, Cecilia Montaner-Vargas, has kindly offered to coordinate assistance and outreach to the Iraqi families. People interested in making a contribution to Catholic Charities of Tompkins-Tioga Counties should write “Immigrant Services Program” on the memo line, and include a cover note that says, “This contribution is to help meet the needs of the Iraqi translator families.” (Also include your name and address, so that Catholic Charities can mail you an acknowledgment of your tax-deductible contribution.) These checks can be given to any member of the Meeting's Working Group or mailed to Cecilia Montaner-Vargas, Director, Immigrant Services Program Catholic Charities of Tompkins-Tioga Counties, 324 West Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY 14850.

The Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support presently includes Mac Larsen, Margaret McCasland, Elizabeth Schneider, Garry Thomas, and Bonnie Tyler, and very much seeks other members.

# Calendar for December 2007

## 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

---

**Dec 1 Sat 5:30 pm** Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion on resistance and attempts to educate people about the Nazi regime in Germany during World War II \*\*\*

**Dec 2 Sun 9:30 am** Faith and Practice Adult Discussion: Seeking the Spirit In Silence, In Solitude and In Prayer / Room 314, Anabel Taylor Hall (this is the beginning of a new monthly series – see more details in the announcements section)

**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, and go to First Day School classes: 3 years old – preschool Ladies Lounge, Ground Floor (down the hall from the Edwards Room); Kindergarten through 2nd grade in Café, 3rd – 4th grade in Room 314. 5th - 7th grades in the Cafe. Power Quakers study group (ages 11 - 18) meet in the Church of the Latter Day Saints room (320) on the third floor on the first and third first days of each month. For more information about the Power Quakers, call Janis Kelly (277-1024).

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

**Dec 5 Wed 1:15 – 3pm** Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

**Dec 9 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 December 2nd

### 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** Celebration Circle / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

**Dec 11 Tues 7:30 pm** Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend. \*\*\*

**Dec 13 Thurs 7:00 pm** Quaker Writers Group \*\*\*

**Dec 15 Sat 6:00 pm** Floating Meeting at the home of the Clarkbergs \*\*\*

**Dec 16 Sun 10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

**11:00 am** Children gather in the Café to prepare for the pageant

**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 December 2nd

**Rise of Mtg** Our pageant will take place before the end of meeting for worship, to be followed by our annual dish-to-pass dinner,

**Dec 23 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 go up to the Café for group activities

**Dec 24 Mon 7:30 pm** Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship at the Burt House

**Dec 25 Tues 10:30 am** Christmas Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse

**Dec 30 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 go up to the Café for group activities

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

**Dec 31 Mon** January newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the January newsletter (see contact information listed below).

**11:00 pm** New Year's Eve Meeting for Worship at the Burt House

**Jan 6 Sun 9:30 am** Faith and Practice Adult Discussion: Seeking the Spirit In Scripture, In Devotional Reading, in Tradition / Room 314, Anabel Taylor Hall

**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 December 2nd

**Rise of Mtg** Follow-up to “The Lost Message of George Fox”, if enough people sign up (see details in announcement section)

**Jan 13 Sun** Rise of Mtg Annual meeting for worship with attention to business \*\*\*

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

## Advices & Queries

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

*Query 6. Do our children receive the loving care of the meeting? Does the influence of the meeting promote their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Do we offer our young people opportunities for fellowship, for service, for religious instruction, and for participation in the life of the meeting?*