

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

March 2008

CONTENTS

Meeting Events: 1-2
In Our Meeting: 3
Quakers in Our Region: 3-4
In Our Community: 4
IMM Minutes: 5
Calendar of Events: 6

IMM CONTACTS

Clerk:

Tom Brown
5 Rockwell Road, Newfield, NY 14867
272-5554 • tlb4@cornell.edu

Ministry and Oversight:

Marion daGrossa
109 Sears St., Ithaca, NY 14850
273-4020 • mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com

Treasurer:

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

Childcare Requests:

Ginny Gartlein • 272-3471

Burt House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
273-5421

Listserv:

Send email to lyris@cornell.edu. Leave the subject line blank and include: join IMMRSF-L "Your Name" (include the quotes) in the first line of the body of the message.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Due Mar 26th**

Materials for the April newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:
Rini Clarkberg
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
277-9364 • mec30@cornell.edu

Making A Difference in Washington With FCNL: Your Priorities

Many Friends are familiar with the work of the Friends National Committee on Legislation (FCNL) and its Quaker witness in Washington. Over the years, FCNL staff and volunteers have played a vital role in bringing Quaker concerns to members of Congress and making Friend's perspectives heard on issues ranging from world peace to domestic policy to the environment and Native American affairs.

Friends may be less familiar with the process by which FCNL sets its priorities for lobbying and education. FCNL is a truly grass roots Quaker organization. Every two years in anticipation of Congressional elections, FCNL solicits input on legislative priorities from Quaker meetings and Friends around the country which becomes the basis. This input then becomes the basis for establishing priorities for the new Congress.

This year, 2008, FCNL is developing its priorities for the 111th Congress. This is your opportunity to help shape FCNL's agenda for the coming two years.

As your meeting's FCNL representatives, Mac Larsen and Will White are eager to hear your views. What concerns matter most to you? The War in Iraq and world peace? Immigration? Health reform? The environment? American Indian affairs? Other issues? We would like to hear your views and will be holding a discussion session after the rise of meeting on March 30th in the Café, Anabel Talyor, to get your views and talk about the work of FCNL.

We also welcome comments in person or by email, telephone or mail if you are unable to join us. You can view a full copy of the FCNL policy priorities for the 110th Congress on the web at www.fcnl.org/priorities/priority_110th.htm and we will bring hard copies to meeting. You may also wish to look at the general FCNL website at www.fcnl.org. It is an excellent resource for learning about national policy issues and taking action.

— Will White, wdw8@cornell.edu,
Mac Larsen, cm17@cornell.edu

Remembering Thor Rhodin

When the word reached me that Thor had died, quickly the Spirit sent me an image of our Meeting as a spacious grove spreading over a hillside. Oaks and maples, poplars and pine. A community of many kinds and ages.

When Thor exchanged this life for the mystery, it was like the crash of one of those giant trees, opening on its fall a new window to the sun, pouring its enlivening light upon the leafy floor. Broken branches, shattered bark and upturned roots become a playground for scampering squirrels and chipmunks... a shelter for rabbits. The pithy strength within now exposed, it becomes a generous nursery for a wealth of flourishing new growth.

Here is another image for our hearts: not one for sorrow and termination, but of ongoing life in a community of love.

— Carolyn W. Mallison

Meeting Events

Talent Night

Saturday, March 1st, 7p

Meeting's annual Talent Night at the Burt House. All forms of talent are encouraged, whether it's visual art, performance art, or culinary art. This year we will start Talent Night at 7pm. Bring your favorite or special recipe snack or dessert to share at intermission.

Social Justice Comm. Meeting

Sunday, March 2, Rise of Meeting

The Social Justice Committee will meet at the rise of Meeting for Worship. All Friends are welcomed to attend.

Faith and Practice Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, March 2, 9:30-10:45a

Join others the first First Day of each month in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314 to read and discuss *NYYM Faith and Practice*. This month, the topic will be "Seeking the Spirit in Gospel Order." Please read ahead if you can.

There are copies of *Faith and Practice* available for purchase in the Edwards Room and at the Burt House. You can also find copies of *Faith and Practice* online at <www.nyym.org/quakerism/fnp/>.

The April 6 topic is scheduled to focus on "Seeking the Spirit in Corporate Worship, in Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business," however topics are subject to change based on how far into the section the discussion goes.

Quaker Stitching Circle

Sunday, March 2, 6pm

A Quaker stitching circle meets in front of the fireplace in the Burt House living room on the first and third Sunday of each month at 6pm. Knitters, crocheters, needlepointers, sock darners, and button sewers of any age, ability, or gender are welcome to attend. Please contact Alexa Yesukevich (apy3@cornell.edu or 273-5421) with any questions.

Peace Witness Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th, 7:30p

Please join us at the Burt House as we continue our efforts to express Friends' Peace Testimony. Bring your thoughts and ideas.

Moon So Bright

*Moon, moon. Moon so bright:
Shining through the pitch black night,
Stars to guard the pearl so white,
Stands out so in the pitch black night.*

— Thea Clarkberg (7 y.o.)

Annual Egg Hunt "Floating Meeting"

Sunday, March 16th, Rise of Meeting

Floating Meeting is an intergenerational meeting for worship and time to get to know each other better. This month's Floating Meeting will be held at Liam Murphy and Susan Hess's home for their annual egg hunt. Adults and children of all ages are welcome!

For those of you die-hard egg finders willing to brave an at-least muddy and likely snowy hillside, please bring a dozen eggs per participating child (or grown-up) to Meeting at 11:00, or drop them off at the Murphy/Hess household any time/day beforehand, so that the eggs will be hidden before the kids arrive. Bring along baskets for collecting the eggs. Please bring a brunch dish-to-pass to be eaten as soon as you can arrive from Meeting.

The egg hunt will be held snow, rain or shine as soon as the majority of kids arrive—and no later than 1pm! Dress kids in boots and weather gear since there can be lots of mud, and it can be chilly on the hillside. It'll only be held indoors if it's much too rainy, windy, and cold. We will have a "more difficult" area for older kids as well as an egg-hunting spot for the smallest fry, so toddlers welcome! The Murphy/Hess household is at 78 Genung Circle off Genung Road near Snyder Hill Road. Call for directions: 272-4526.

Quaker Stitching Circle

Sunday, March 16, 6pm

See March 2.

Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 23, 6:30a

Meeting for Worship by the fire at Hector Meetinghouse. Afterwards: breakfast at Marion and Nancy's, 109 Sears St.

Quaker Basics

Sunday, March 30, Rise of Meeting

Quaker Basics continues in March with a discussion on Quaker traditions around birth, marriage, and death (on 5th Sunday this month to avoid Easter). We will end by 2:45p.

Quaker Basics is 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. If you require childcare, please let a member of Program Committee know by the Wednesday before the session.

Future sessions include a discussion of "Wider Quaker Organizations" on April 27, and a roundtable discussion on "Leading a Quaker Life" on an evening in May.

Making A Difference in Washington With FCNL

Sunday, March 30, Rise of Meeting

What are your priorities for FCNL? See page 1 cover story for further details about this discussion at the rise of meeting.

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, March 25th, 7:15p

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). 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.

Quaker Writers Thursday, March 27th, 7-9p

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). 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.

Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

*The time will come
when, with elation,
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror,
and each will smile at the other's welcome,
and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who was your self.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you
all your life, whom you ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,
the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own image from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life.*

— Derek Wilson, *Love after Love*

Announcements

In Our Meeting

Directory Updates

Fell Cadwallader, Blair Jennings, and their four children Eli, Emma, Asa, and Maisy live at 81 Durland Avenue, Elmira, NY 14905. Fell's address is nagsless99@yahoo.com and Blair's is healthyandsafe@yahoo.com. Phone: 607-734-0224.

Lynn Grove has moved to 214 McGraw House, Ithaca; 256-1203, l_grove_87@hotmail.com.

Janet Frieswyk lives at 327 West King Road, Ithaca, and can be reached at (202) 321-8112 or jfrieswyk@earthlink.net.

Quakers in Our Region

Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology which will be held over the Memorial Day Weekend at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA. The featured plenary speaker will be Alan Briskin. Information on Alan and the history of the conference is available at <fcrp.quaker.org>.

Alan Briskin, author of *The Stirring of Soul in the Workplace*, says of that book "... (it) is a story of how the human soul was gradually but systematically eliminated from our concept of work and how it must be allowed back into consciousness. ... Soul, as I use it in the book, does not belong to a person in isolation of others. We must find what is wanting to come through us and link it with what is needed in the world." Contact Melody Johnson, Dick Crepeau or Peg Walbridge for more information.

Winter Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

Bronwyn Mohlke and Marilyn Ray attended Winter Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, a one day gathering in Rochester Meetinghouse held in January.

The morning session was devoted to preparing for Spring Gathering, planned for the weekend of May 16-18. The theme of Spring Gathering this year is **Earth Care**. There will be a healing center at Spring Gathering this year, an opportunity for Spirit-Led Friends to explore, practice, and experience healing modalities from different traditions.

There will also be a one day workshop on the Friday of that weekend for Friends interested in being Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs) during youth events, led by Christopher Sammond and Mike Clarke (one of the Powell House Youth Directors). Regional meeting asks for a minute of recommendations from each Meeting for adults who feel led to work with the youth of our region. The minute includes the language: "We commit ourselves to supporting this Friend as they volunteer with the regional youth program in any way discernable." The Regional Meeting has decided to lay down the paid position of youth coordinator, primarily due to low attendance as we have a gap in ages of youth involved. Some youth work will now include middle school kids. A Young Friends in Residence program to be trained at Powell House is also being formed, again focusing on this age group.

The roll call at the beginning of meeting for worship with attention to business included an invitation to each Meeting to share a joy that they have experienced. It is a wonderful way to get to know Friends from around the region better.

"Winter Gathering," continued from previous page

The Committee on Conscience and War supports the writing of statements of conscience and will support Meetings in doing this. Yearly Meeting is sponsoring a fourth conference on conscientious objection to paying for war to be held at Powell House this April.

Regional meeting supports Sarah Mandolani's travels in Africa and Indonesia this spring and summer. Friends shared reports on meeting for worship held in Attica and Auburn prisons.

Poplar Ridge has written a minute opposing Friends United Meeting's policies with regard to sexual orientation and marital status.

Regional meeting decided that the minute will be brought to each meeting for consideration. Sylvia Graves, executive secretary of Friends United Meeting, and Christopher Sammond, representative of New York Yearly Meeting to FUM, will visit our meeting together February 24th.

Now in considering the Declaration of Faith recently adopted by Friends United Meeting (FUM), with which this meeting is affiliated through its membership in New York Yearly Meeting, we are reminded of the postscript to the Balby advices which ends, '...and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth light.' Thus we affirm that, even in reconsidering the scriptures, we should be guided by the Spirit, always mindful of Jesus' message of love, and avoid a rigid reliance on the letter.

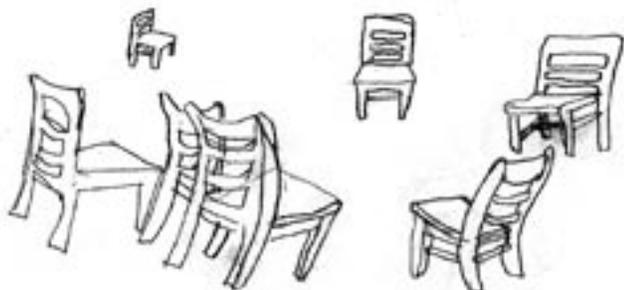
Therefore, we remain opposed to FUM's present hiring policy with regard to sexual orientation and/or marital status, as we remain opposed to all policies that would in effect deny the equality and full humanity of any person or group of persons.

Regional Meeting approved circulating this minute to the Meetings in the region and returning to its consideration at Spring Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting will consider it during our meeting for worship with attention to business to be held on March 9.

In Our Community

Sage Chapel: Where Spirit and Intellect Meet

Sage Chapel on the Cornell campus now holds Sunday services at 4 in the afternoon. The services are oriented around the theme "where spirit and intellect meet" and March's theme is "Science & Spirituality." The full program for the semester is available at: www.curw.cornell.edu/sage/html. Speakers in March include Professors SJ Gates, Jr (Physics, University of Maryland); Roald Hoffman (Chemistry, Cornell) and Robert Fay (Chemistry, Cornell). There will be no services on either side of Cornell's spring break.



Walking with an 88 Year Old Man

In Memory of Bob Simkin, Mike's dad.

A memorial service for Bob was held at Poplar Ridge Meeting House on Nov 17, 2007.

*He is carrying a corn pudding that he's made
through the light rain,
to the potluck supper at the church
down the street from his house,
where he's lived alone
since his wife died a few years ago.
Is he thinking of her
as he walks slowly through the rain?
Very likely. She made corn puddings
for these suppers for many years.
He only took over the recipe after she was gone.
I catch up with him and offer to carry the basket,
and he doesn't turn me down.
A year or two ago he would have,
but he's leaner now,
his face is furrowed
under the bill of his hat.
His hearing is not good. I ask him,
"Do you like this kind of day?"
and he says in a thoughtful way,
"Yes, it is a nice time of day,"
and so it is, the cool gray
of the beginning of dusk
after the cold gray of an April day.
And I say, "April is my favorite time of year,"
and he says, "It happens every year."
We continue our repartee, walking alone together
through the spring and the dusk and the light rain.*

— Howard Nelson

Second Sunday Celebration Circle March 9, 7pm

Jody Kessler's Celebration Circle is held the second Sunday of every month, 7:00 - 8:30p; the theme this month is "Healing Circle."

This gathering will be an opportunity for us to send prayers to all those in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. We will explore the meaning of "healing" and how it differs from "cure." Through chanting, meditation, prayer, and a beautiful candlelight ritual, we will create a powerful container to hold and send forth healing energy and love to all who are suffering. You are invited to bring photos or representations of any loved ones that you wish to have held in the Light. There will also be an opportunity for each person attending to come into the center of the circle and receive healing from the group.

The Celebration Circle is held in 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. Adults and teens welcome. <www.commonheart.org>

In the Light

Each month, there are at least two opportunities to join others in holding people in the Light: Meeting for Healing (fourth Tuesdays at Melody's house, see Meeting Events), and third Thursdays at 8:30p (when Friends at home may join Ministry & Oversight in spirit in this loving ministry). Friends are welcome to share their joys, concerns and other personal news here.

Sunday, March 9 is **Carolyn Mallison's** 84th birthday. Friends are welcome to join in an informal gathering at Lakeside (1229 Trumansburg Road). The plan is to keep it simple. There will be pizza and beverages between noon and 5pm. Come for as little or as much time as you would like. Look for f/Friends in Lakeside's community room, also known as the Café, or in the nearby dining room. No gifts.

Helen Schantz, a resident of Odessa, NY and a long time member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, sent a letter of appreciation for her continuing connection to IMM through the newsletter.

Don and Maryann Crist are prepared to depart April 1 for a year in New Zealand as Friends-in-Residence in a meeting there. They will blog their adventures at <ourwanderings.blogspot.com>.

Simon St. Laurent and **Angelika Rumberger**, married under the care of the Meeting this summer, are expecting their first child sometime in the next month or so!



Simon and Angelika, on the porch at Hector Meetinghouse, greet Elspeth after their wedding.

Minutes

February 2008 Monthly Meeting

Tom Brown, Clerk

Michael Simkin, Assistant Clerk

Marilyn Ray and Antonia Saxon, Co-Recording Clerk

Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

@ signifies that the minute has been read and approved

200802.1 **Gathering.** The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on February 10, 2008, in the Cafe, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:45 p.m., twelve F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read a selection on simplicity from the 1927 Book of Discipline of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The minutes of the January annual meeting for business were read and today's agenda reviewed.

200802.2 **Ministry and Oversight Report.** Tonia reported for Ministry and Oversight.

- a. Scholarship aid committee: The scholarship aid committee assists the treasurer in allocating scholarship funds for meeting members and attenders who have requested Meeting aid for workshop tuition. The present members are Sue Ruff and Tonia Saxon. Ellie Rosenberg's term on the committee is over; Mike Simkin will replace her.
- b. Ministry and Oversight has approved the appointment of Nancy Gabriel and Steve Mohlke to the New York Yearly Meeting Meetings for Discernment, and notes that Ithaca Monthly Meeting's Melanie-Claire Mallison is on the New York Yearly Meeting's interim steering committee.
- c. State of the Meeting Report. Tonia Saxon read the draft State of the Meeting Report for 2007. With minor modifications, Friends approved the report. @

200802.3 **Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM) Winter Gathering:** Bronwyn reported on attending Winter Gathering with Marilyn Ray. A detailed report will appear in the March newsletter. @

200802.4 **Hector Meetinghouse Report** The white pine whose removal the Meeting approved last month was removed by the County Highway Department for \$500 as bid. Cleanup was meticulous, Elspeth reports. There is another tree on the west side of the driveway that needs watching. @

200802.5 **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Mohlke reviewed the balance sheet for 2008. Friends received the report. @

200802.6 **Clerk's Report:** The 2008 naming committee has been formed and consists of the clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, Sue Ruff from M&O, and Marilyn Ray from Trustees. The naming committee will be meeting soon to seek to bring to March Monthly Meeting two names for the Nominating Committee to replace Marion DaGrossa and Rini Clarkberg, whose terms ended in 2007. Continuing Nominating Committee members include Mike Simkin (2008), Melody Johnson (2009) and Wendy Wolf (2009). Friends who have suggestions for these two vacancies on the Nominating Committee are welcome to share them with any member of the naming committee. @

At 2: p.m., F/friends continued in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on March 9, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Saxon, Co-Recording Clerk, February 2008

Advices & Queries

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

Advices 10. *Friends are advised to observe integrity in their living and to inspect frequently the state of their temporal affairs. In their dealings with everyone they should endeavor to maintain a truly Christian character, ever bearing in mind the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."*

Query 9. *Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths?*

March 2008 Calendar

Every Sunday

- 10:30a Singing in the Edwards Room at Anabel Taylor Hall
- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages in the Edwards Room
- 11:15a Children meet **First Day School** teachers outside the Edwards Room. Latecomers join Friends in the Edwards Room.
- 12:15a Children from First Day School meet back in the Edwards Room.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Tuesday
9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home.
- Wednesday
7:15p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burr House.
- Thursday
4:30-5:30 **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts.

Monthly Events of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Second Sunday (March 9)

Rise of Mtg **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 (please see left sidebar on page 1).

Fourth Sunday (March 23)

Rise of Mtg A light **brunch** of shared snacks. Please bring finger foods to share.

March Events (*For more information about asterisked items, see inside.)

Mar 1, Saturday

7p Talent Night at the Burr House.*

Mar 2, Sunday

9:30-10:45a **Adult Discussion** on *Faith and Practice* *

Rise of Mtg **Social Justice** Committee meeting in the café.*

6p **Quaker Stitching Circle**.*

Mar 5, Wednesday

1:15-3:00p Volunteers needed at **Kitchen Cupboard**. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-2471). Kitchen Cupboard regularly needs brown paper bags.

Mar 9, Sunday

2a **Spring Forward:** Adjust your clock by one hour.

12-5p **Carolyn Mallison's** 84th birthday party.*

Mar 11, Tuesday

7:30p **Peace Witness** Committee meeting at the Burr House.*

Mar 16, Sunday

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

Rise of Mtg **Floating Meeting:** Egg Hunt at the Murphy's

6p **Quaker Stitching Circle**.*

Mar 20, Thursday

8:30p **Hold Friends** in the Light at 8:30 (see "In the Light").

Mar 23, Sunday

6:30a **Easter sunrise service** at Hector Meeting House followed by breakfast at Marion and Nancy's at 109 Sears St.

Mar 25, Tuesday

7:15p **Meeting for Healing**, 112 Mt. Pleasant Road.*

Mar 27, Thursday

7-9p **Quaker Writers' Group***

Mar 30, Sunday

Rise of Mtg **Quaker Basics***

Rise of Mtg **FCNL discussion***