

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

August 2008

CONTENTS

Meeting Events: 2
IMM Minutes: 3
Calendar of Events: 4

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 August 26th

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

Giant Caterpillar Thing Stalks Children's Pavillion

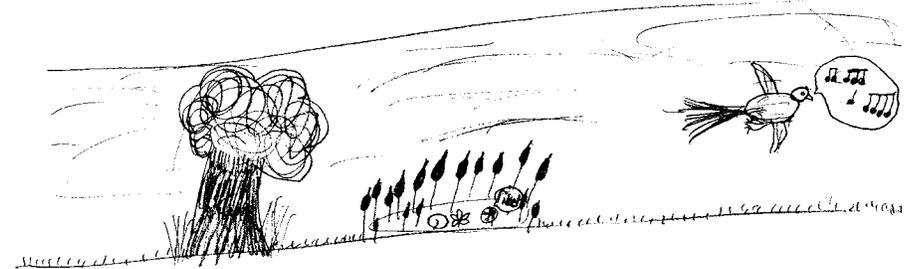
Alexa Yesukevich estimated it to be four inches in length. Others likened the organism to a juicy green cigar. One thing is for certain: it was no ordinary caterpillar.



After the sighting, Cornell scholars immediately conducted research (with a relatively new methodology called "Googling") and subsequently announced that the creature was a "cecropia."

For the entire period of Meeting for Worship on Sunday, July 27th, the caterpillar meandered along the front supporting beam of the children's pavillion. While observers declined to touch the creature, many people gathered around to admire and snap photos.

Upon completion of the larval phase, the giant green caterpillar will emerge as a cecropia moth, otherwise known as a Robin Moth or the Wild Saturniid Silk Moth. The cecropia is the largest moth in North America with a wingspan of up to 6 inches.



Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembrance

On August 6, 1945 at 8:15am in Hiroshima, Japan the first nuclear bomb was dropped.

On August 9, 1945 at 11:02am in Nagasaki, Japan, the second nuclear bomb was dropped.

On Thursday, August 7 at 4:30 pm, the regular time of our weekly peace vigil, at the foot of East State Street (near Community School of Music and Art) our posters and peace messages will be in solemn remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Please plan to join us and add more voices to the message of peace.

On Saturday, August 9 at 9am, there will be a one-hour silent vigil (rain or shine) at the Peace Pole in front of the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way. This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 63 years ago in Nagasaki at the instant of the blast, and of those who suffered and died from their injuries.

We will not be overwhelmed. We hope that in remembering, we will continue to seek global peace and justice.

— Elizabeth Schneider

Continuing Concern for Coffee

The Social Justice Committee will be laying down the sales of Fair Trade, organic, shade grown coffee once we have sold the last of our stock (decaf, anyone?). But we are not laying down our concern that people purchase items that have been produced under circumstances that are

- healthy for the farmers and workers who grow our food and make our products,
- healthy for us as consumers of food and users of products, and
- healthy for the planet we all share.

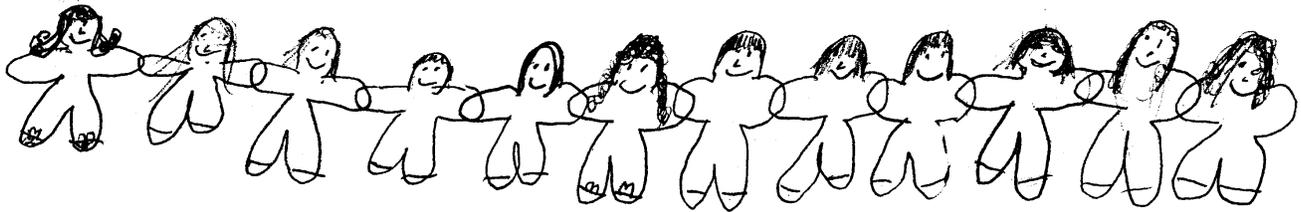
This concern goes far beyond coffee: it also includes chocolate, bananas and other produce, clothing, and other key imported products. We shall continue to occasionally try to inform and inspire you regarding the importance and advantages of buying items that have been fairly and ecologically produced. We will both share reasons to avoid items that are not fairly made, and let you know where you can easily purchase items that are.

Regarding coffee: it is important to look for coffee that is organic and shade grown, as well as fairly-grown, in order to preserve the ecosystems near coffee plantations and to keep our planet as a whole healthy.

Fair Trade, organic, shade grown coffee is available at Buzz Coffee on Franklin Street (our most recent supplier). Equal Exchange coffee includes organic and non-organic varieties, but are not specifically shade-grown. EE coffee is especially inexpensive in Tops' bulk section. You can also find EE coffee at 10,000 Villages on the Commons, GreenStar, and Wegmans. In addition to Buzz, other places that both serve and sell fairly-grown coffee include Ithaca Bakery and Gimme Coffee.

We want to be more than *mindful* when we choose our purchases: our choices should also be *heartfelt*: made with love of Earth and of all people on Earth.

— Margaret McCasland



Meeting Events

Peace Witness Committee Meeting Tuesday, August 12th, 7:30p

All are invited to come and share in the effort to bring the Quaker Peace Testimony to life in this community. Please join us at the Burt House

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, August 27th, 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, call Melody, 272-8755.

Social Justice Comm. Meeting Thursday, August 28th, 6p

Meeting dates get moved around a lot in the summer. Please check with a member of Social Justice to confirm if there is a meeting at the Burt House at 6 pm.

Advices & Queries

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

Advice 12. The attention of Friends is called to the propriety of conducting funerals and memorial meetings in a sincere spirit of worship. They are advised to avoid the display of floral decorations and the wearing of mourning, and to adhere to our simple ceremony.

Query 11. Do we foster reverence for life? Do we strive to find, to understand, and to remove causes of misery and suffering? Do we, in loving concern, extend assistance to those who require it?

Query 12. Do we acknowledge the oneness of humanity and foster a loving spirit toward all people? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that men and women are equal? How do we work to make these ideals a reality?

Minutes

July 2008 Monthly Meeting

Tom Brown, Clerk

Michael Simkin, Assistant Clerk

Marilyn Ray and Antonia Saxon, Co-Recording Clerks

Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

@ signifies that the minute has been read and approved

200807.1 **Gathering.** The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on July 13, 2008 in the Hector Meetinghouse for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Assistant Clerk, Mike Simkin read the agenda for the day. The minutes of the May 2008 Monthly Meeting were read. @

200807.2 **Report from Ministry and Oversight** (report available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk). Ed Cranch presented the report.

A. The Committee of Care for Melanie Claire Mallison

A Committee of Care of Mike Simkin, Melody Johnson, Mary Beth Tierney, and Nancy Gabriel was convened at Melanie-Claire's request to help guide and support her over the year with her work with NYYM, Powell House, and with Ithaca monthly Meeting. @

B. Membership for Alexa Yesukevich

The Membership Committee of Joanne Sutrgen, Bruce Berggren-Thomas, and Marion DaGrossa met with Alexa and recommended membership to M&O. M&O recommended approval for membership to IMM. Minute approved. @

C. Recommendations for discontinuation of membership

Over the last year, M&O has made several attempts to contact Bob Hall, all of them were unsuccessful. M&O recommends discontinuation of Bob Hall's membership. Minute approved. @

Tom Hirschel requested discontinuation of his membership and that of his sons Andy, Noah, and Nicholas. Approved. @

D. Transfer of two memberships

M&O has received requests for transfers for Rebekah Tanner from Quaker St. (NY) Monthly meeting and for Esther Darlington from Media (PA) Monthly Meeting to IMM.

Requests Approved. @

200807.3 **Report from the ad hoc Retreat Committee.** Rini Clarkberg reported that about 30 kids attended the Retreat this year, a figure that is somewhat down from previous years. The children prepared 125 sack lunches for Loaves & Fishes and delivered them. Costs for the Retreat were substantially higher this year than in previous years due to the need to rent a facility and also pay for access to a pool for the children. When the total expenses have been calculated, the Committee will bring a final request for funding to Monthly Meeting.

200807.4 **Report from the Route 79 Property Committee.** Rini Clarkberg reported for the Committee that a gravel driveway is in place to access the property from Route 79 and the land has been mowed. The Committee is looking into the cost of putting a spigot on the land to facilitate use of the property. It is also contemplating putting a locked chain across the driveway near the top to secure access to the land.

200807.5 **Report from Treasurer.** Steve Mohlke reviewed the treasurer's report for June 2008. He reported that the refugee fund has roughly \$1,900 in it, and we had received \$13,802 in donations by the end of June, representing about 28% of our anticipated donations for the year (a copy of the report is available from Clerk or Recording Clerk). @ Friends received the report.

At 12:450 p.m., nine F/friends continued in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business at Hector Meetinghouse on August 10, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk

Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

Innocence

*There is no fear greater
than the fear of being happy,
than the unwillingness to see all faults
and sins as simply mistakes.*

*Who could honestly denounce another
if it was admitted that all s/he had
done*

was make a mistake?

*Instead, the other is seen
as selfish and internally dark,
a thing unworthy of life,
to be attacked and weakened.*

*To have any hope of happiness,
we must first recognize those times
we are afraid
of the innocence of others.
They are the same moments
as when we ourselves
resist feeling gentle and free.
We mistakenly believe
that our sense of self-worth
comes from how we compare to others,
and that to see them as innocent
would reflect badly on us.*

*So we remain hard and exacting
in order not to allow any evidence
of guilt to go unnoticed.
But our fear of the sinlessness
of what God has created
also leaves no possibility
of recognizing our own
inherent worthiness.*

*Let us therefore practice
genuine self-interest.
Let us renounce anxiety
and try in its place
an experiment in kindness.*

— Hugh Prather

Meeting Friends



With great joy in our hearts, we welcome Alexa Yesukevich as one of three new IMM members as of July. (We also welcome Esther Darlington and Rebekah Tanner as transfers; see page 3 for the Minutes.)

Alexa attended Cambridge Meeting off-and-on beginning in 1996. She moved to Ithaca in 2002, where she had Rini Clarkberg as an instructor for a statistics class. When her professor happened to comment that she was a Quaker, Alexa thought it might be a good idea to stay away from Meeting for fear of looking like some kind of hanger-on.

Fortunately, she thought better of that position, and has been attending regularly since 2003. Alexa has made many contributions to our Meeting: she has served on Hospitality, has pitched in with our camp/retreat and currently serves on both the Burt House Committee and the Program Committee. Alexa really values Midweek Meeting for Worship, every Wednesday at 7:30p (see calendar below).

Meeting for Worship at Taughannock

On Sunday, August 10, at 8am, Friends will be gathering at the north point of Taughannock Park for Meeting for Worship. Friends should arrive promptly, as the Meeting is likely to be an abbreviated one. Perry City Friends are host for this meeting. The Trumansburg Area Churches host church services at the park during the summer and this is our Sunday.

— Tom Joyce, Perry City Meeting

August 2008 Calendar

Every Sunday

- 10:00a Singing in the Hector Meeting House
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a Children are welcome to enjoy the outside.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Tues 9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home.
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House.
- Thurs 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 (August 9)

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.** Watch for announcements or check with Tom Brown, our clerk, to confirm there will be a business meeting in August.

Fourth Sunday (August 23)

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

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

August 6, Wednesday

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

August 12, Tuesday

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

August 17, Sunday

9:15ish **Children and the Life of the Meeting** (CALM) may meet. Confirm with Marilyn Ray.

August 26, Tuesday

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

August 28, Thursday

6-7:15p **Social Justice** Committee at the Burt House.*