



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2008

CONTENTS

Meeting Events: 3
IMM Announcements: 4
Other Events: 5
In the Light: 6
IMM Minutes: 7
Calendar of Events: 8

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 November 20th

Materials for November'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

Global Warming and Stone Soup

— Margaret McCasland

I have been haunted lately why so many people—myself included—are doing so little (beyond the occasional furtive reference to odd, unseasonal weather) about global warming. I subscribe to the free online version of a wonderful magazine, *Orion*, and was so inspired by an article written by “our own” Sandra Steingraber that I asked her if we could reprint it in the IMM Newsletter. The crux of her article and of my comments at the end is, “Why are we doing so little about the biggest thing that humans have ever done to Earth: global warming?”

Inset below is a nearly complete version of Sandra's essay. The full article is available at in the September/October 2008 print issue of *Orion* magazine or on-line at www.orionmagazine.org/index/php/articles/article/3229.

“Stone Soup” continued on page 2

The Big Talk:

How to tell a six year old where all the birds and bees have gone by Sandra Steingraber

I was recently confronted, in an obscure blog, with the question, “Why isn't Sandra Steingraber talking about climate change?”

It was unsettling. As the days went by, I began an imaginary argument.

Look, I first wrote about receding glaciers in 1988. I was assigning Al Gore to college students in 1992. Not long ago, I made climate instability the centerpiece of a commencement address I gave at a rural college in coal-is-king Pennsylvania. And if you think all the trustees were pleased with that theme, I invite you to give it a try. So the question is not “Why is S.S. not talking about climate change?” The question is “Why is S.S. not talking about it AT HOME?”

Okay. Why don't you talk about it at home?

Because I have young children and because I believe that frightening problems need to

be solved by adults who should just shut up and get to work.

So, how long are you going to keep hiding the truth from your kids?

That's as far as I got before three other notable things happened. First, Elijah asked to be a polar bear for Halloween. As I pinned the chenille fabric, it occurred to me that his costume might well outlast the species. I decided not to tell him that.

A month later, Elijah asked his sister for a weather report. Faith walked out onto the porch, spread out her arms in the manner of Saint Francis, and came back in. “It's global warmingish,” she said and went back to her cereal. No comment from me.

And then I overheard a conversation on the playground. One child said, “I know why it's hot. Do you?”

Another said, “It's because the Earth is sick.” They all nodded. I said nothing.

“The Big Talk” continued on page 2

"The Big Talk" continued from page 1

IT'S TIME TO SIT DOWN with my kids and have the Global Warming Talk. I carried off the Sex Talk—and its many sequels—with grace and good biology. Surely, I can rise to this new occasion.

On the surface, procreation and climate change seem opposite narratives. Sex knits molecules of air, food, and water into living organisms. Climate change unravels all that. The ending of the sex story is the birth of a family. The climate change story ends with what biologist E. O. Wilson calls the Eremozoic Era—the Era of Loneliness.

But then I realized that the two stories share a common epistemological challenge. Both are counterintuitive. In the former case, you have to accept that your ordinary existence began with an extraordinary, unthinkable act (namely, your parents having intercourse). In the latter case, you have to accept that the collective acts of ordinary objects—cars, planes, dishwashers, iPods—are ushering in things extraordinary and unthinkable (dissolving coral reefs, daffodils in January). So, I reasoned, perhaps the same pedagogical lessons apply: during the Big Talk, keep it simple, leave the door open for further conversation, offer reading material as follow-up.

Of which there is no shortage. In fact, a veritable cottage industry of children's books on climate change has sprung up almost overnight. These range from the primer, *Why Are the Ice Caps Melting?* (Let's Read and Find Out!), in which lessons on the ravaging of ecosystems also offer plenty

of opportunities to practice silent e, to the ultra-sophisticated *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*, by foremost environmental author Lynne Cherry, in which middle school readers are cast as co-principal investigators. This new literary subgenre is impressive. Reading its various offerings, I found myself admiring the respectful tones and clear explanations. These books describe global warming as a reality that no longer lingers in the realm of debate. And yet, they are not, for the most part, scary. Indeed, the first sentence in the inside flap of *How We Know What We Know* is "This is not a scary book."

And here is where the pediatric versions of the climate change story depart from their adult counterparts. The recent crop of books on global warming intended for grown-ups focuses on the surreal disconnect between the evidence for rapidly approaching, irreversible planetary tipping points (overwhelming) and the political response to that evidence (mostly zilch). The children's books profile heroic individuals fighting to save the planet—in ways that kids can get involved in. To read the children's literature is to see the world's people working ardently and in concert with each other to solve a big problem . . . and enjoying a grand adventure while they're at it.

Is this the fiction we all should be laboring under? I don't know. I do know that a fatalistic mindset, which afflicts many adults but almost no children, is a big part of what's preventing us from derailing the global warming train that has now left the station. On this, I wholly agree with sociol-

ogist Eileen Crist, who argues that fatalism, masquerading as realism, is a form of capitulation that strengthens the very trends that generate it. I do know that we grown-ups need visions of effective challenges and radical actions that can turn into self-fulfilling prophecies.

I also know that I needed something to say to my six year old when we walked home from the library in April—no leaves to offer shade, the bank's LED sign reading eighty-four degrees—and he turned his ingenuous face to mine to ask, "Mama, is it supposed to be so hot?"

So I am working on my talk. For inspiration, I have arranged on my desk three documents. One is an essay that Rachel Carson published in *Popular Science* in 1951—eight years before my birth. It's entitled "Why Our Winters Are Getting Warmer," and it includes a drawing of Manhattan deluged by seawater. Another is Carson's essay "Help Your Child to Wonder," published five years later. The third is a book by poet Audre Lorde that includes the sentence: *Your silence will not protect you.*

My talk features a story about a boat in which we all live—people, butterflies, polar bears. A storm starts to rock the boat. The waves are chemical pollution, habitat destruction, industrial fishing, and warfare. Now along comes a really big wave. Global warming. The already-rocking boat is in danger of flipping over.

Then what happens? I don't know. For the first time in my life, I have writer's block. Somebody help me out here.

"Stone Soup" continued from page 1

I would like to help Sandra break through the writer's block she describes in the article, because it is a block I share with her. More importantly, we need to move beyond our activists' blocks. The old saw, "Everyone always talks about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it," has taken on new meanings lately.

Sandra writes, "To read the children's literature is to see the world's people working ardently and in concert with each other to solve a big problem... and enjoying a grand adventure while they're at it. *Is this the fiction we all should be laboring under?*"

This is a fiction I tell myself a significant percentage of time. And it is an appropriate fiction to tell children, but *only* if we start turning this particular tale into reality.

And this is where "Stone Soup" comes in. If all you need to start making a delicious, nutritious soup is a smooth stone that inspires others to add a "little something" to the pot, then all we need to create a truly effective movement to reverse global warming is a proverbial stone: a fiction that says, "Yes, it's a big problem, but it's solvable—and we're working on it." The only catch is that then—now—we have to start working on it. Big time. All of us.

I see many reasons why so few people are actively working to slow global warming, beyond chipping away at their personal list of "ten easiest things I can do." Climate change is complex; it's hard to fully understand and even harder to predict—even if you're a climate scientist. And a scary, unpredictable future is understandably paralyzing. Add in the actors who are still accelerating the emissions of heat-trapping gases—Big Oil, Big Coal and Big Agriculture (all

"Stone Soup" continued on page 3

"Stone Soup" continued from page 2

of whom seem to care more about short-term profits than the fate of the planet)—and we have a truly daunting task before us. I have trouble getting out of bed some days.

But this is what I want to say to Sandra, in response to her plea: "The already-rocking boat is in danger of flipping over. [...] Somebody help me out here."

We are a community beyond our individual selves, thank goodness. After I read her article, I received the following image: we are all part of a calliope. When some of us are down, others are up, merrily tootling away—until it becomes their turn to quietly rest while we again add our voices. Hearing the music others are making while I feel unable to move is what restores my courage, encourages me to rejoin the music-making.

I truly believe that we can slow and then eventually reverse global warming. History is a source of solutions, and not just a catalog of mistakes not to be repeated. We don't need to work any harder to reverse global warming than Friends and their friends did to abolish slavery or win rights for women. But we do need to work faster. And we need to involve many more people. Fortunately, Earth has plenty of people, many of them very willing to join in the effort.

When we are up and tootling, we need to "work both ends against the middle." In addition to the changes we make in our households, our workplaces and our communities, we must create the political will—the political imperative—for governments and corporations to quickly phase out the most egregious causes of global warming. Once we *start* doing that, we can tell our children and grandchildren that global warming and climate change are solvable problems that we are actively working on—and it won't be fiction.

Meeting Events

Social Justice Committee Meeting Sunday, November 2nd, Rise of Meeting

Social Justice will gather in the café in Anabel Taylor. Please join us.

Healthy Congregations discussion Monday, November 3, 7:15p

In the September newsletter, Steve Mohlke wrote about the book *Healthy Congregations* and the analogy between a healthy community and a healthy body. November 3rd is the second of three discussions of this book held at the Burt House. Friends are encouraged to attend one or more sessions. It will be helpful to have read the assigned chapters ahead of time. Contact Steve Mohlke for more information.

Friendly Round Singers Thursday, November 6th, 7-9p

We sing old standards and are learning many new rounds. It's a great way to work on harmonizing and singing. Last month our youngest singer was Lilliana at 11 months and the oldest... well there's a few of us that would probably fit that description. It's a drop in event at Melody's house, 112 Mt. Pleasant Rd, 272-8755. Come join us and bring a friend.

Leading a Quaker Life: Consuming Issues Friday, November 14th, 6-8:30p

Being mindful of the food you eat and the energy you consume can have a dramatic impact on the way you relate to the world. Join us November 14 to discuss our consuming ways.

Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, November 11th, 7:30p

Meeting at the Burt House, Peace Witness is an open committee that welcomes the participation of everyone. Our main goals are to

provide a focus in our Meeting for peace witness and to encourage and support the leadings of Meeting members and attenders working for peace.

Burt House Clean Up Saturday, November 15th, 9a-2p

Please join us for the annual fall yard and house clean up. Many hands make light work. Come for whatever time you can between 9a and 2p. Scones & coffee provided.

Healthy Congregations discussion Monday, November 17, 7:15p

The third of three discussions of the book *Healthy Congregations*; at the Burt House. Contact Steve Mohlke for more information.

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, November 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, call Melody, 272-8755.

Coming in December: Fahima Vorgetts

Social Justice Comm. will be hosting Fahima Vorgetts on Tuesday, December 9 (Tuesday). Please save the date.

Fahima raises funds for schools and hospitals in Afghanistan. She is a board member of Women for Afghan Women and the director of the Afghan Women's Fund. Please read more about our work at <www.womenforafghanwomen.org>.

Many people from the community heard her speak last year and her trip this winter will update us on her work.

IMM Announcements

Nominations: At the Heart of Our Meeting

Nominating Committee invites anyone who has suggestions or concerns regarding committees, representatives and other meeting appointments to contact one of us. We appreciate how many Friends and attenders already serve the meeting and are still looking for a few more willing hearts and hands.

In particular, the following committees are still in need of additional members:

- Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM)
- Finance Committee
- Peace Witness Committee
- Program Committee
- Publicity
- Social Justice

And we still need a Representative to the Upstate AFSC regional office to provide advice for their projects, which include a Youth

Empowerment Project in which the Help Increase the Peace program is used; an economic justice project in which AFSC facilitates workshops to train neighborhood community people to advocate for themselves; and an environmental project with the Akwasasne Indian program in which local foods and crafts are promoted. The committee meets twice a year in Syracuse (on Saturdays) and twice a year by conference call.

For more details or descriptions of any of these, please contact a member of Nominating Committee: Wendy Wolfe, Erica Weiss, Mary Beth Tierney, Mike Simkin and Melody Johnson.

Child Care Options

The Budget Committee reminds Friends with children that Ithaca Meeting provides money for baby sitting in your home to help you attend Meeting activities such as Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Quaker Basics, Midweek Meeting etc. Contact the treasurer, Steve Mohlke, regarding requests (277-4183, smohlke@lightlink.com).

Quakers in Our Region

New York Yearly Meeting Budget

When the Financial Services committee of the New York Yearly meeting gathered for Budget Saturday last month, we took another step toward effectively incorporating Monthly Meeting feedback into the budget process. We shared not just Covenant Donation amounts from the constituent Monthly Meetings, but also feedback we received on program priorities from those Meetings. We still have room to improve this process.

When we compared the Covenant Donation and other income amounts with the initial expense budgets submitted by the four NYYM Coordinating Committees, we faced a \$24,500 gap. We began the difficult work of cutting back on programs dear to many of our hearts. We named some long-term issues that need to be addressed as we look at 2010 and beyond but won't likely affect the present budget. We considered some portions of the 2009 budget and agreed upon \$5,500 in cuts that day. Friends asked the Coordinating Committees to review their budgets in light of Covenant Donation amounts. We initiated work on the details of another \$11,000 in cuts and increases of \$4,000 in non-Covenant Donation income. Assuming all of these ideas work out, the gap would be down to \$4,000. We invite you to join us as we continue to reflect and pray about the budget and begin to consider even more difficult choices.

The budget as it stands at the end of the annual "Budget Saturday" is now posted on the NYYM web site at www.nyyim.org/committees/treasurer/2009. We continue to work with the budget in preparation for Fall Sessions, November 7-9.

— Steve Mohlke, Clerk of NYYM Financial Services

Paying for War

At our Summer Sessions in 2007, New York Yearly Meeting approved a minute inviting members and others to consider acknowledging that paying for war violates our conviction in the Power of the Living Spirit to give life, joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity, and compassionate justice among people.

The Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting was asked to issue a call to conscientious objectors to paying for war everywhere to join us in this action.

Sian Cwper is a war tax resister in Wales, a Buddhist, a member of Conscience and Peace Tax International, and part of the Peace Tax Seven in the United Kingdom. New York Yearly Meeting Friends and Sian Cwper attended the 12th International Conference of War Tax Resisters in Manchester, UK, held in September 2008. During the time in her presence New York Yearly Meeting Friends were moved by her groundedness and spirit-led witness.

Friends everywhere may wish as led to do any or all of the following:

- Read further about the Peace Tax Seven and the enormous costs these courageous people are incurring both personally and corporately as they bring their case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France: www.peacetaxseven.com/.
- Write words of support: Sian Cwper siancwper@yahoo.co.uk.
- Donate funds or donate a quilt square at www.peacetaxseven.com.

Powell House: New York Yearly Meeting Retreat Center

Friends, Powell House offers many wonderful opportunities to explore Quakers and Quakerism beyond Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Consider the following upcoming events:

For more information about registration dates, fees, childcare, and scholarship opportunities, please visit <www.powellhouse.org>. Remember also that IMM offers some scholarship funds; contact Steve Mohlke for more information.

A New Look at Jesus and David: What the Women in their Lives Tell Us (November 14-16)

We will spend this weekend reading from 2 Samuel and the Gospels (both canonical and non-) about the lives of first David, then Jesus, and what the experience of the women in their lives can tell us about these two crucial figures in the Bible narrative. We'll open ourselves to the questions each text asks of its time and of us in this time. If you have a Bible, bring it with you.

A Practical Mystic's Guide to Quaker Process (November 21-23)

In this workshop we will explore Quaker process, with a particular focus on discernment. How do we, as Friends, choose what course to follow, individually and as a group? How can we deal more creatively with conflict? What does it feel like to look for and find "way opening?" The more we know about how Quaker process works and why, the more tools we will have for ensuring that all aspects of meeting life, including meeting for business, can truly be an expression and affirmation of our worship community.

Friends of Bill W and Dr. Bob (December 5-7)

Please join us as we explore the 11th step through the Big Book, the 12 & 12, Rex Ambler's teachings, and through the spiritual practices of the participants. We all have our simple kit of spiritual tools, and we all could use a few more tools in that toolkit.

This weekend will be considered a closed meeting, with the exception of the Powell House staff. The co-facilitators for this weekend have been both Friends and Friends of Bill & Bob for many years

Powell House Annual New Year Celebration: Cherish Family and Friends (Dec 30-Jan 1)

This intergenerational conference is one of our most popular. We can only house 90 people, so register early! At this annual event we have activities for all ages including making snow people, ice-skating, yoga, Pilates, cookie making, origami, sharing, story telling, and building hot air balloons. Did I mention dancing in the kitchen while washing pots & pans? This year, we're going to be doing more of the same.

Right after our evening meal on the 31st, it's Cabaret! Bring your instruments, a song, story, poem and/or skit to share with everyone on New Year's Eve.

Junior Counselor in Training (November 14-16) for 10th to 12th graders

Year after year attendees claim this is one of their favorite conferences ever. If you're responsible, fun loving, believe in the "idea" of PoHo and would like to become a JC, join us this weekend.

Animal Art, Animal Play (November 21-23) for 4th and 5th graders

Have you ever seen the lacy sweep of a spider's web or the cardboard creations of gerbil friends? Have you watched puppies wrestle? Colors and patterns and ways of moving in the animal world are often amazingly beautiful and often very playful. Beauty and play are good. This weekend, with animals as our inspiration, we'll jump into art and play and make one another smile, laugh and ooh and aah.

Wintersong 2008 (December 12-14) for 8th to 12th graders

Mystical. Magical. Incredible. Real. Join us as we gather to celebrate our amazing community and fill both houses with Light and Love. There will be inspiring workshops, a game or two, small group discussions, simple but elegant food at the "dress-up" dinner, and the ever-entertaining, stretching-late-into-the-night cabaret. This is a popular weekend. Priority will be given to folks who have participated in conferences throughout the fall.

AVP: Solving Conflict Peacefully

Do you...

- ... have trouble with anger?
- ... hold grudges?
- ... avoid people because of unresolved conflicts?
- ... feel frustrated when people disagree with you?
- ... find it difficult to say no?
- ... want to handle conflict more productively?
- ... want to be a peacemaker in your daily life?

Many people find it difficult to deal with conflict. If you answered "yes" to two or more questions, an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop may be especially helpful to you.

A full AVP workshop is 22 hours, but Elmira Monthly Meeting is offering "mini-workshops" _just 3.5 hours—to introduce participants to AVP. One will held November 8th and another December 6 at the Quaker Meeting House, 155 West Fifth Street, in Elmira. There is only a \$3 registration fee to attend. In addition we will ask for a donation to support workshop expenses and also to support AVP workshops in NYS prisons.

You may register with Kathleen Gale by emailing parrot7@verizon.net or phoning her at 607 733 9952. Checks should be payable to AVP Elmira Area Council and sent to Kathleen Gale, Elmira Area Council Alternatives to Violence Project, 155 West Sixth Street, Elmira, NY 14901.

We hope you will register for full workshops in the New Year.

Events in Our Community

Spirituality, Self-Care and Community Unity: Foundations of a Just and Sustainable Future

Economic crisis, climate crisis, energy crisis, sanity crisis! How, in the midst of all this, can we create a healthy community here that works for everyone, and find and keep our center in the process?

During this afternoon, we will explore the challenges and the possibilities together and experience how earth care, social justice, and self-care can all work together. Through community dialogue and small group learning circles, tree planting and celebration, and simple spiritual practices from different cultures, we will cut through the clutter to the issues that really matter to us and that could unite us in a common cause.

No fee but please RSVP: miranda@sustainabletompkins.org, 607 277 1241. Childcare provided, but please let us know if you will need it.

This spiritual retreat will take place Sunday Nov. 2, 1-5p at the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca 315 N. Cayuga St.

This event is sponsored by Sustainable Tompkins, Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship, Earth Arts, and IAHE (Interfaith Action for Healing Earth).

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).

In order that we all may know and love one another better, Friends are also invited to share their joys, concerns and other personal news here. Please let Rini Clarkberg know if you would like to share something here.

Meeting Friends



Joanne Sturgeon

Joanne started attending Ithaca Monthly Meeting just over forty years ago. She first discovered Quakerism in college, and finally became a member of Meeting twelve years after she first began attending.

Joanne has lovingly served on many committees in our meeting, including Ministry & Oversight, Peace Witness and Social Justice. She was active in organizing and providing instruction for First Day School for many years. Joanne also served a term as assistant clerk. Presently, Joanne is active with the ad hoc Burt House Working Group.

Like thirteen other Friends, Joanne participated in the first meeting of the *Healthy Congregations* discussion group. See Meeting Events for more information about the November gatherings.

Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

Going beyond fear begins when we examine our fear; our anxiety, nervousness, concern and restlessness. If we look into our fear, if we look beneath the veneer, the first thing we find is sadness, beneath the nervousness. Nervousness is cranking up, vibrating all the time. When we slow down, when we relax with our fear, we find sadness, which is calm and gentle. Sadness hits you in your heart, and your body produces a tear. Before you cry, there is a feeling in your chest and then, after that, you produce tears in your eyes. You are about to produce rain or a waterfall in your eyes and you feel sad and lonely and perhaps romantic at the same time. That is the first tip of fearlessness. You might think that, when you experience fearlessness, you will hear the opening to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony or see a great explosion in the sky, but it doesn't happen that way. Discovering fearlessness comes from working with the softness of the human heart.

— Chogyam Trungpa

Minutes of the October 2008
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tom Brown, Clerk
Mike Simkin, Assistant Clerk
Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerks
Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

@ Indicates the reading of the minute was approved.

20200810.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on October 12, 2008 in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:45pm, ten F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read a passage from the "Business Procedures" section of Faith and Practice. The minutes of the September 2008 Monthly Meeting were read. @

200810.2 Report from Fall Gathering. Marilyn Ray presented the report from Fall Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Fall Gathering took place September 20th in Syracuse and during the morning session Barbara Spring from Albany Meeting presented an informative talk on end of life issues. FSRM Meeting for Business with Attention to Worship included:

- A. Report from the FSRM-Conscience and War Committee that they are continuing to work on the procedures for recording Statements of Conscience at the Monthly Meeting, Regional Meeting, and Yearly Meeting levels as requested of them during Spring Gathering. They gave a first reading of the procedures and invited Friends to give them comments.
- B. Report from the ad hoc committee appointed at FSRM-Spring Gathering to work with the Minute Poplar Ridge proposed on the Richmond Declaration and FUM's hiring policies. The Committee reported that they had reached unity on not bringing a minute to Fall Gathering and read an epistle from the ad hoc committee to the Region reflecting their work of discernment and their understanding that "moving forward with a minute is not helpful at this time."

FSRM Friends received the epistle and considered ways we might be called to move forward individually and as a body to build relationships with Friends in all our diversities, within our region, our yearly meeting, and within other bodies of Friends. Intervisitation within the region was specifically invited.

FSRM approved sending the epistle, with some simple edits, to Meetings within the Region with a request that the Monthly Meetings worshipfully consider the message of the epistle as a call to build loving relations with one another. Friends affirmed that "our heart's desire is to find ways to walk with one another...so that we might become open to what truths we have to teach one another."

- C. Report from the ad hoc FSRM Website Committee: FSRM received the report. FSRM was comfortable in principle with asking David Tornow Coffee (a member of the Committee) to design & maintain a website, under the care of a committee(s) charged with oversight & management

of the web content and website (pending naming a charge and establishment of such a committee(s) by Nominating Committee). FSRM approved circulating the report of the ad hoc committee & David's proposal to monthly meetings for discernment, returning to this proposal for final decision at our January Meeting for Business.

Regional Gathering Dates:

- Winter Gathering: January 17, 2009
- Spring Gathering: Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, 2009
- Fall Gathering: September 19, 2009 @

200810.3 Burt House Committee Report. Tom Brown reported for the Committee. He reported the following: substantial tree removal and stone masonry work has been completed this Fall; all residence rooms are now occupied; and painting of the porch and a second floor room has been completed. Tom Brown also had presented a brief history of the Burt House to a group of about 20 members of the "wellness group" from Cornell. The Fall Burt House workday will be held November 15, 2008. (A copy of the report is available from Clerk or Recording Clerk). Friends received the report. @

200810.4 Proposed Minute from the Finance Committee. Chuck Mohler presented the following proposed Minute:

In response to a request from OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources, formerly Offender Aid & Restoration), the Finance Committee recommends that a \$100 interest-free loan made to OAR in 1986 be converted to a donation. Minute Approved. @

200810.5. Presentation on NYYM Meeting Financial Services. Steve Mohlke reported for the NYYM Committee. He presented: a PowerPoint presentation explaining the work of NYYM accompanied by a written description of staff and their responsibilities; a draft of the NYYM budget for 2009 arranged by project costs; and a traditional presentation of the proposed NYYM budget for 2009. A discussion followed the report. Friends received the report. (Copies of the documents are available from Treasurer, Clerk or Recording Clerk). @

200810.6 Treasurer's report. Steve Mohlke presented the report. He reported that by September 30, 2008 MM had spent \$17,000 more than had been received in donations during 2008. The costs for our insurance have increased over the budgeted amount due to updates in our policies. Treasurer also noted that IMM has lost our tax exempt status for the Route 79 property which will have an annual impact on the budget of about \$1,000. Finally he noted that Trustees are considering how to reinstate the tax exempt status. (A copy of the report is available from Clerk or Recording Clerk). Friends received the report. @

At 2:40 p.m., ten F/friends continued in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business at the Café in Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell University campus November 9, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk
October 2008*

Advices & Queries

For your contemplation from *NYYM Faith & Practice*:

Advice 14. Friends are earnestly cautioned against the taking of arms against any person, since "all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons" are contrary to our Christian testimony. Friends should beware of supporting preparations for war even indirectly, and should examine in this light such matters as non-combatant military service, cooperation with conscription, employment or investment in war industries, and voluntary payment of war taxes. When their actions are carefully considered, Friends must be prepared to accept the consequences

of their convictions. Friends are advised to maintain our testimony against war by endeavoring to exert an influence in favor of peaceful principles and the settlement of all differences by peaceful methods. They should lend support to all that strengthens international friendship and understanding and give active help to movements that substitute cooperation and justice for force and intimidation.

Query 14. Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

November 2008 Calendar

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Singing** in the Edwards Room
- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 11:15a Children leave Edwards Room for **First Day School**.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Tues 9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home.
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burtt House.
- Thurs 5-5:30p **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 (November 9th)

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, before October 8th.

Fourth Sunday (November 23)

Rise of Mtg Dish-to-pass brunch in the cafe at Anabel Taylor Hall.
Please bring finger foods to share.

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

November 2, Sunday

Rise of Mtg **Social Justice** Committee in the cafe.*

November 3, Monday

7:15p **Healthy Congregations** discussion at Burtt House.*

November 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.

November 6, Thursday

7-9p **Round Singing** at Melody's house.*

November 11, Tuesday

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

November 14, Friday

6p **Leading a Quaker Life** at the Burtt House.*

November 15, Saturday

9a-2p **Burtt House:** yard and house clean-up.*

November 16, Sunday

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

November 17, Monday

7:15p **Healthy Congregations** discussion at Burtt House.*

November 25, Tuesday

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

November 27, Thursday

10:30-11:30a Thanksgiving **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meeting House.

December 9th, save the date

Fahima Vorgetts events.