



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2009

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join IMMRSF-L "Your Name"
(include the quotes) in the first line of the body of the message.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Due September 24th

Materials for October's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:

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On Spiritual Discernment from Ministry & Oversight

*The basis of discernment in a meeting for business is unity. The unity sought is **not** simple agreement, consensus, compromise or irreducible minimum of views. What is sought is a sense of that deep, interior unity which is a sign the members are consciously gathered together in God and may therefore trust their corporate guidance. The experience known as the gathered meeting for worship is the basis of unity in the context of the meeting for worship for the conduct of business. [...]*

Unity may enable a way forward to be found even if members continue to hold differing views.

— Spiritual Discernment by Patricia Loring,
Pendle Hill Pamphlet 305

This process of group discernment assumes that God is present and can be known. It assumes that God can change and transform minds and hearts. It assumes that God is at work even when things look bleak. Trusting God in each moment provides the anchor for making decisions through group discernment.

— Practicing Discernment Together
by Lon Fendall, Jan Wood, Bruce Bishop



We Gather Together: Friends experienced loving community at the annual retreat at the Meeting's land on Route 79. We also learned sign language, alternatives to violence, weaving, and knitting. Send your photos to Larry at larry@knowledgetown.com if you want to put them on the meeting's website.

IMM Events

Wedding of Alexa Yesukevich and Emily Williams Sunday, September 6, 2:30

Alexa and Emily will be married under the care of Ithaca Monthly Meeting at the Hector Meetinghouse. Friends are welcome at the wedding and at the reception at the Burt House afterward.

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, September 8, 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 more information, call Melody, 272-8755.

Barry Barn Dance Saturday, September 12, 7-10p

Friends, this event is not to be missed! Join Frank and Barbara Barry at their beautiful home, 219 East Lansing Road (directions below) for wonderful music, dancing, and companionship. Casey Carr will be calling and she is rounding up the musicians. The ever-popular cable car will be in good working order for children to ride. There is no dish-to-pass supper this year, but you can bring munchies, drinks or just yourselves!

Directions: Go north on Rte 34 to stop light at Rogues Harbour Inn. Turn right and continue north on 34 around a curve to the left. Pass one crossroad (Buck Road). Second crossroad is East Lansing Road. Turn right and go one mile. It is the last house on the right before the next crossroad. Large red barn on the left.

Quakerism & Vegetarianism Tuesday, September 15, 6:30-7:30p

Pat Sewell invites Friends to join him in a discussion on the intersection between Quakerism and vegetarianism at the Burt House. Light snacks will be served. All are invited.

Women's Fellowship Friday, September 25, 7p

Meet at the Smart Monkey Cafe to talk about whatever we darn well feel like talking about while enjoying a dessert, a great burger, coffee and/or a cold beer.

Annual Picnic Sunday, September 20th, Rise of Meeting

The annual meeting picnic will be held at Hector Meetinghouse at the rise of meeting. We will have grills, and provide the grilling fare. Sign up sheets for salads, desserts etc. will be available at meeting starting in September, so start thinking about what you would like to bring. If you have games or entertainment you would like to bring, please do. See you there!

Words to Consider from Meeting for Healing

Education must be no less than the initiation in that process by which human beings may fulfill their potentiality as human beings. Does this not imply that the first step in this process is to make a child aware of the very miracle of being alive at all and never to take this gift for granted, but to foster the awareness of sharing one's aliveness with plant, bird, fish, with this entire biosphere of which we are the interdependent constituents? This is not a matter of preachment but of guiding the perception of creatures as beings, not things but events, showing plants and animals being born, growing, aging, dying.

Education would be the stimulation of the child's capacity for experience, of that questioning of existence which is specifically human. Hence the child would be encouraged to draw the events of existence experienced, to compose stories and poems about these experiences, to act them out with other children. Ethical sensitization would be trusted to be the result of the insights gained, rather than by indoctrination with moral precepts.

Once awakened to the sheer mystery of existence, the child could be made aware of the quest for meaning as being a specifically human constituent, and of the multidimensional forms in which human intuitions of the Sacred have crystallized themselves in various cultures. The closely interwoven roots of art and the life of the spirit might be shown here and in this context the formal teaching of particular religious and artistic disciplines would quite naturally fall into place.

— Fredrick Franck

Announcements

Small Plea from Newsletter Editor

Friends, it should only take a minute to let me know about meetings and other events you schedule. I try to remember to include regularly scheduled meetings, but its best if we don't rely on me—especially since committee meetings sometimes move around at the beginning of fall.

Also, if you have personal news you'd like to share with meeting, the newsletter is a way to share it in a way that enables equal access of all Friends. Please let us know how you are doing.

Minutes of the August 9, 2009 Called Meeting for Worship, Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tom Brown, Clerk
Steve Mohlke, Assistant Clerk
Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerks
Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Recording Clerks.)

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on August 9, 2009, at Hector Meetinghouse for a special Called Meeting for Worship to consider F/friends' feelings about the property at 606 West Dryden Road, Freeville NY. At 12:20 p.m., 43 F/friends settled into worship. The Clerk read from Spiritual Discernment by Patricia Loring, on the nature of Unity in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Clerk reviewed the considerations that he and the Assistant Clerk had prepared for guiding us through the meeting today, and explained the expected order and format that we would follow.

Rini Clarkberg distributed a handout and reported briefly, condens-

ing the information we now have about the property. Questions were asked and answered to the extent possible. Meeting then moved into extended worship sharing, addressing the query, "how do you feel about the West Dryden site as a future home for our Meeting?" F/friends spoke to a broad range of thoughts and feelings and listened tenderly to one another.

After a period of silent worship, clerk asked, "Where are we led?" Suggestions arose for next steps—finding answers to further questions; and getting web access to some of the history of IMM's search for a home, e.g. criteria, priorities, and notes from today's meeting. It was decided to hold another meeting for Worship at the West Dryden Road house, and another Called Meeting so that F/friends can continue our exploration of this property. Rini Clarkberg and Kris Altucher will look into arranging those meetings and will get the information out to IMM. @

At 3:10 p.m., 39 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

Minutes of the August 9, 2009 Called Meeting for Worship, Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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Steve Mohlke, Assistant Clerk
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(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Recording Clerks.)

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on August 22, 2009 at the historic church/meetinghouse at 606 West Dryden Road for a special Called Meeting for Worship to decide whether IMM should purchase the church/meetinghouse. At 11:20am, 29 f/Friends settled into silent worship. Clerk read a passage about unity from Friend's Practice of Group Spiritual Discernment by Lee Junker and a message on unity from Carol Kimball. Clerk suggested we enter into Worship Sharing and that the following query guide us:

How well do Friends think this building has the potential to meet the needs of the Meeting?

After a period of sharing, Clerk said that the Meeting had expressed a strong sense about the need for finding a Meeting home and soon. He also mentioned the sense of community we had found together today. Finally he said that he did not sense unity about this property, but that it would not be laid down. Meeting will continue working on moving forward. He thanked everyone for their attention and time.

At 1:40 p.m., 26 f/Friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning.

The September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the Hector Meetinghouse on September 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries

from *NYYM Faith & Practice*

Advice 8. Friends are earnestly advised to refrain from practices that are detrimental to the body or the mind, for example, the use of intoxicants and tobacco, and the misuse of drugs.

Advice 9. Care should be taken that all of our members avoid participation in lotteries, gambling, and betting, including such schemes of chance that appeal as benevolences. Friends should refrain from hazardous speculation and are cautioned against engaging in business that may be questionable. They are responsible for the manner of acquiring, using, and disposing of their possessions.

Query 8. Have we confronted our own decisions about our use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and do we encourage others to do likewise? Have we considered the cost in human suffering that might result from such use?

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?

September 2009 Calendar

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
10:45a Children are welcome to go 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 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

September 13th

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, by September 9th.

September 27th

Rise of Mtg **Dish-to-pass brunch** behind Hector Meetinghouse.
Please bring finger foods to share.

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

Sept 6, Sunday

2:30p **Wedding** of Alexa Yesukevich & Emily Williams at Hector Meetinghouse.*

Sept 8, Tuesday

7:15p **Meeting for Healing** at 112 Mount Pleasant Rd.*

Sept 12, Saturday

7p **Barry Barn Dance** at 219 East Lansing Road.*

Sept 15, Tuesday

6:30p **Vegetarianism & Quakerism** discussion at the Burt House.*

Sept 20, Sunday

Rise of Mtg **Annual Picnic** at Hector Meetinghouse.*

Sept 25, Friday

7p **Women's Fellowship**, Smart Monkey Cafe.*