



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

**February 2009**

**CONTENTS**

IMM Events: 2  
 In Our Community: 2  
 Meeting Friends: 2  
 IMM Minutes: 3  
 Calendar of Events: 4

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**Listserv:**

Send email to [lyris@cornell.edu](mailto: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](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS  
 Due February 26th**

Materials for March'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](mailto:mec30@cornell.edu)



*"Untitled" (1988) by Adam Fuss is included in the exhibition "Picturing Eden," currently showing at the Johnson Museum, Cornell University.*

**The 2009 Meeting Directory is Here!**

Friends, a new edition of the Meeting Directory is now available. If you cannot pick up yours at Meeting for Worship, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke, 277-4183 or [bjm9@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm9@cornell.edu).

**Note: Change in dates for upcoming Business Meetings**

Friends, Meeting for worship with attention to business is usually held on the second first day of the month after the rise of Meeting.

A change in that schedule will occur in April and May, so as not to coincide with Easter and Mother's Day. In both of those month it will be held on the *first first day* of the month, April 5 and May 3.

**Save the date: Annual Talent Show will be March 7th**

**Meditation with Ned Burt**

— Ann Rhodin

The lasting process of love:  
 Love and light is beauty  
 Inspiration of heart and mind  
 A clear head augments itself

Improve the spirit in dark and light  
 Feed it with feelings and thought  
 Empty the mind, uplift oneself  
 At one time darkness, now light

Unity from fragments  
 Belief in truth  
 Bring releases in joy and happiness  
 Opposites combine to create balance

Notice the best in the worst  
 Through honesty and insight  
 The intellect is both good and bad  
 Requiring a clear mind, in listening

God is embracing, a sparrow calls  
 From morning prayer, snow melts  
 Tiny flowers revealed  
 Song from music and words

Grow to the highest  
 Combine love and spirit  
 In the moment, even as  
 It is difficult to find

Standing by the window  
 Become aware of the incoming light  
 The Higher Power is ever present  
 Share in the power of love

In real truth, is enough to itself  
 With justice brings freedom  
 With transparent spirit  
 Knits the absent with the present

Express thoughts in a journal  
 Sharpening the spirits, a harmony  
 Of mind and soul  
 Art makes life beautiful

Now kneel. Bow your head  
 Let the saints fly above you  
 Meditation brings union  
 of absence to presence.

## IMM Events

### Faith and Practice Discussions Continue Sunday, February 1st, 9:30a

Please join us on first Sundays now through May 3 at 9:30 am in room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall. Each month, our subject varies, and depends on where we have left off the month before. Contact Toni Murdough for more information, and please join us for some enlightening discussions.

### Social Justice Committee Meeting Sunday, February 1st, Rise of Meeting

Please join us in the cafe in Anabel Taylor.

### Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, February 10th, 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.

### Meeting for Healing Tuesday, February 24th, 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.

## In Our Community

### In Search Of: Outdoor Homes for Cats

The SPCA has several beautiful, healthy, and neutered feral cats who are looking for outdoor homes with a barn, shed, or similar. A feral cat will keep your barn rodent free for the price of cat food! To learn more about adopting a barn cat e-mail the SPCA at [kar-en@spcaonline.com](mailto:kar-en@spcaonline.com) or call 607-257-1822.

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**Nancy Gabriel and Marion DaGrossa** were married under the care of Ithaca Monthly Meeting on July 13, 1996. Nancy first became a Quaker in 1974 while living in San Francisco. In 1979, she transferred her membership to Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Marion began coming to Meeting in 1993, and became a member in 1996.

There is not enough space here to adequately describe what these women do for our Meeting. In terms of official responsibilities: Nancy has just started a term as co-Recording Clerk, and is also Meeting's representative to Cornell United Religious Work and to New York Yearly Meeting. Marion is currently the clerk of the committee on Ministry and Oversight.

## Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

*It is through surrender to the unwanted that we embrace our vulnerability. Our helplessness teaches us humility. When we are humbled by pain, we see our smallness in the vastness of the cosmos. The ego gives up its hold on reality, its paltry attempts to control and to dictate its terms. It lets go of its agenda. Its grandiosity thus diminished, there is an opening, and a larger vision can emerge. Amazingly, this letting go, which is a kind of death, is also one of the great joys of life—an effort that is the end of all effort. When we unfurl the gnarled fist of control, letting the hand open up to receive and to give, our smallness—once the source of our agony—becomes a source of comfort. Conscious surrender is often what life asks of us in those times when we most want to control the outcome. Embracing vulnerability does not mean wallowing in passivity, abdicating responsibility, or relishing being a victim. It means being fully present to what is happening and staking no claims on the outcome.*

*Because we are vulnerable life hurts. We are not here to be free of pain. We are here to have our hearts broken by life. To learn to live with vulnerability and to turn pain into love. The world breaks our hearts wide open; and it is the openness itself that makes us whole. The open heart is the doorway, revealing that the world is charged with the sacred.*

— Miriam Greenspan,  
*Healing through the Dark Emotions*

*Note: Miriam Greenspan is the plenary speaker at Friends Conference on Religion & Psychology; if you want more information about her or the conference, contact Melody Johnson.*

## Meeting Friends



Minutes of the January 2009  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the  
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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

@ Indicates the reading of the minute was approved.

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

(Please note that copies of all report provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Recording Clerk.)

**200901.1 Gathering.** The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on January 11, 2008, in the Cafe, Annabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:50 p.m., 27 F/friends settled into worship.

**200901.A. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Corporation**

Present: Barbara Barry, Tom Brown, Larry Clarkberg, Marin Clarkberg, Richard Creapeau, Marion DaGrossa, James Finlay, Janey Frieswyk, Nancy Gabriel, Chris Gartlein, Ginny Gartlein, Melody Johnson, Martin Jolles, Mac Larsen, Bronwyn Mohlke, Steve Mohlke, Melissa Mueller, Katy Payne, Marilyn Ray, Elspeth Rhodin, Tom Rodman, Heather Ruff, Sue Ruff, Elizabeth Schneider, Michael Simkin, Erica Weiss, and Christianne White.

**200901.A1. Reports from the Corporation:** Marilyn Ray, President of the Corporation and Clerk of the Board of Trustees, and Larry Clarkberg, Secretary of the Corporation and of the Board of Trustees, reported for the Board of Trustees.

Friends received the Trustees Reports. @

**200901.A2. Treasurer's Report to the Corporation:** Steve Mohlke presented the financial statement for 2008, and also the budget for 2009 that was approved by the Ithaca Monthly Meeting at its December 2008 regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to business (200812.6). He reported that IMM had received slightly less—about \$250—in contributions to the unrestricted general budget in 2008 than the amount budgeted. In addition to contributions to the unrestricted regular budget, in 2008 we received about \$15,000 in gifts designated for various projects. Including the amount contributed to the unrestricted budget plus the contributions to restricted items in 2008 was about \$60,000. Seventy-three households made contributions in 2008, up from 59 households in 2007.

Friends received the Trustees Report. @

This ended the annual meeting of the corporation.

**200901.B. January 2008 Meeting for Business with Attention to Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

**200801.B1 Nominating Committee Report.** Mike Simkin presented the proposed of list nominations to positions and Committees in 2009. APPROVED @

**200901.B2. Annual Reports of the Committees of Ithaca Monthly Meeting:** Annual reports were received from and summarized for the following committees: Burt House; Children and the Life of Meeting; Finance; Hector Meetinghouse; Newsletter; Hospitality; Library; Ministry and Oversight; Peace Witness; Program; Route 79 Property; Social Justice; and Young Friends. The Meeting is grateful for the work and energy of the Committees and those who serve on them.

Friends received the reports. @

At 2:10 p.m., 22 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on February 8, 2009.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk  
January 2009*

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**Snow**

— Thea Clarkberg

The sky throws  
freezing white bullets  
white  
slits in  
the  
dark  
dark  
night  
beating down  
on my window

I shiver...  
It's winter.

**Sparks from the fire**

— Thea Clarkberg

Poof!  
a light  
Swirls into the  
night  
A spark!  
We sit and  
watch  
It fade away  
Slowly it  
Draws back into  
night  
Out of  
sight....

## Advices & Queries

For your contemplation from *NYYM Faith & Practice*:

*Advice 2.* Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct, and to encourage the practice by their families and others.

*Query 2.* Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

## February 2009 Calendar

### Every Sunday

*Note: Melody is no longer leading singing before Meeting*

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

#### February 8th

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**  
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, by February 4th.

#### February 22nd

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

### February Events (\*For more information about asterisked items, see inside.)

#### February 1, Sunday

9:30a *Faith and Practice* discussion in 314 Anabel Taylor Hall.\*

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

11:15-12n **Power Quakers** gather. outside Edwards Room

#### February 4, Wednesday

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

#### February 5, Thursday

5:30-8p **Program Committee** at the Burtt House.

#### February 10, Tuesday

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

#### February 15, Sunday

11:15-12n **Power Quakers** gather outside Edwards Room.

#### February 24, Tuesday

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

## The Meeting Calendar is Available Online

Friends, don't forget that you can visit the Meeting's website to check times and dates.

<http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

If you would like to add events to the online Meeting calendar yourself, just drop Rini a note at [mec30@cornell.edu](mailto:mec30@cornell.edu) for instructions.

