



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2010

IMM CONTACTS

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Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with body of the message as simply:

join

Events:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Newsletter Submissions

Due December 2nd

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg:
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
607-279-4722 • mec30@cornell.edu

Share the Care:

How to Organize a Group to Care for Someone Who is Seriously Ill

The Pastoral Care Committee is hosting a reading group of the book *Share the Care*. Share the Care is a way of meeting the needs of a family in such a way that many people can be involved and no one person feels overwhelmed. We will be meeting bi-weekly, mostly on Wednesdays, starting on Wednesday, November 3. We acknowledge that this is in conflict with midweek meeting for worship, but we were unable to find another evening that worked. Our gatherings will be held at the home of Marion and Nancy, starting at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join us. If you are interested, but are unable to join us, or if you would like more information, please get in touch with Bronwyn (277-4183) or Marion (273-4020). The public library has two copies, and whereas the local bookstores do not

currently have it in stock, they are willing to order copies of the book. You are welcome to come even if you do not yet have a copy of the book.

Wednesday, November 3: Part 1: What's a Caregiver Group and Who Needs One?

Tuesday, November 16: Part 2: Starting Your Group and Making It Run

Wednesday, December 1: Part 3: Being Part of a Group and Sharing the Jobs

Wednesday, December 8: Part 4: Keeping the Group (and Yourself) Going

TBD. Part 5: Beyond the Group: Changed Lives

You will find more about Share the Care at www.sharethecare.org

Committees and Nominations

It is that time of year again! We are looking for anyone interested in volunteering on a committee to step forward. If you have been reluctant or feeling shy about how to become involved, this is your chance to get to know other Quakers in a unique setting.

We currently have openings in these committees (for which you do not have to be a member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting):

- Hospitality
- Peace Witness
- CALM
- Publicity

If there is an area you are feeling lead to, feel free to ask someone on the Nominating Committee how to become involved.

With our new Meeting house just around the corner we anticipate there will be

opportunity for involvement that will unfold as we near the completion of the project.

— Nancy Gabriel, Alexa Yesukevich, Sue Ruff, Connie Thomas, and Erica Weiss

Rain

Someone in the sky
Is spinning the clouds
Into thin white threads
That fall from the sky.
I reach out and try to twist
The silky strings around my finger.
My hand gets wet.

— Thea Clarkberg

Reflecting Back

— Steve Mohlke

Until several weeks ago, I had never felt led to visit a grave. But I try to remain open to the unexpected and on September 12 just such a leading occurred and now I'd like to share the experience. At Meeting for Business that day we had approved proceeding with a contract to renovate the building that would become the Third Street Meetinghouse. The decision seemed to come easily, as I had anticipated it might. We had done enough talking and asking of questions prior to the meeting that I was pretty sure that if there were significant concerns we would have found them. In a way, the decision on that day was simply a formalization of something that had been evolving for months. Nevertheless, it felt like a big one to me.

As I have done a couple times before, I took my time packing up my things and was soon the only one left at the meetinghouse. I really like spending time in the Hector Meetinghouse alone, and stayed to eat my snack. When I was done with that I sat quietly for a little while, and that is when I felt moved to walk back to the graveyard in back and visit with someone buried there whom I had never met. It was Ned Burtt.

For those who don't know, Ned and his wife, Marjorie, bequeathed their house to the meeting in 1989 with hopes that it would help the meeting toward a meetinghouse. Ned clerked the Meeting at one time and also clerked a meetinghouse committee several decades ago. In addition to being a tremendous benefit to the Meeting for committee and event space, the Burtt House has been, at times, a source of anxiety and tension in our Meeting. I have often thought about how he and Marjorie would have rejoiced to see all the activity there, and how sad the tension would have made them. I speculated about how satisfied they probably would have been with today's meeting.

In the late 1990s the City of Ithaca purchased 1/3 acre of the Burtt House property for a park. They paid us \$71,000 for it. In 2001 we used \$48,000 of that money to purchase 8 acres of land on Rt. 79 as a location to build a meetinghouse. Meeting has now decided to sell that land and conservatively expects to receive roughly \$75,000

for it. Thus Meeting will net roughly \$100,000 from the sale of that part of the Burtt property and all of that money is now making our new meetinghouse possible. I realized as I stood before the Burtt's grave that this meant that they are the largest contributors to our new meetinghouse – even as we still own and use the house they gave to us.

So after Meeting for Business that day I was feeling a particularly strong connection to Ned as someone who served our meeting in some of the ways that I have served it and likely loved the meeting with a depth that few of us can comprehend. So I went back to his grave and stood there a while. Then I said, "We did it." And in that "we" I meant all of us now and before. Then I said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you." When I felt complete there I walked around looking at the other graves. Most of them mark people who died in the 1800s or early 1900s but there are a few, such as the Burtt's, that are more recent.

I came upon the graves of Theodore and Sarah Oliver. I hadn't remembered that they were there. They bequeathed their house to the Meeting back in the 1970s. Meeting sold it right away for about \$60,000. We invested the money in CDs and, for a time, lent it to Oakwood School. When we cashed in these CDs to purchase the building at Third and Madison, the value of the Oliver Fund had grown to \$90,000. That made them our second largest donor. I thanked them, too.

I now hold an awareness of those who never saw this particular fruit of their gifts to the Meeting. I am aware of those who held a vision of a meetinghouse alive for decades despite numerous failed attempts. I even embrace the anxieties and tensions the Meeting has struggled with as part of my own spiritual journey, and as motivation to better understand the process bequeathed to us by centuries of Friends. I am aware of those who came to us recently and have pitched in beyond any reasonable expectation. I am aware of people in our Meeting, working on this Meetinghouse, who were not yet born at the time that Ned and Marjorie and the Olivers were buried out at Hector. I love the idea of people who have never met each other working together for a shared dream.

Visits to the Third Street Meetinghouse

The PMC will be offering an opportunity for Friends to walk through the building each Sunday at the rise of Meeting (with the exception of second Sundays, which are our regular Monthly Meetings). A member of the PMC will be present to lead you through and answer any questions you may have.

To make sure everyone stays safe (this is an active construction site, after all), we ask that you wear "sensible shoes" if you plan to join us. Friends are also asked not to visit the building at times other than these weekly walk-throughs, so that we avoid interfering with the contractor's work.

Please contact any member of the PMC if you have questions or would like more information: Lynn Truame (thetruames@gmail.com), Marin Clarkberg (clarkberg@cornell.edu), Tonia Saxon (tonia@iecc.com), Tony Serviente (tsglass314@gmail.com), and Mike Simkin (mes13@cornell.edu).

Burtt House Vacancies in January

The Burtt House Committee expects to have two or three vacancies in January. Residents at the House have private rooms and share in use of the kitchen and eating areas as well as in upkeep of shared spaces. We seek residents who desire cooperative living in a Quaker setting. Residents sign a rental agreement pertaining to the above. No lease is required. For further information, contact Mary Balfour, Burtt House caretaker, at 273-5421; cell phone 342-6657; e-mail mbalfour123@gmail.com.

Errata

Among the errors in last month's newsletter was a misspelling of a Friend's name. Rebekah Tanner was the author of October's page 1 article on membership. Apologies to Rebekah for the mistake.

Memorial Meeting for and Celebration of Carolyn W. Mallison (March 24, 1924 - August 1, 2010)

Saturday, November 20th, 2010, 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. At The Foundation of Light, 391 Turkey Hill Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. (<http://www.foundation-of-light.org/>)

As many of you know, Carolyn Mallison was a unique person. She dove deeply into many spiritual practices, studying and practicing Quakerism, The Old Religion, Wicca, Kabbalah, and many Eastern Religions such as Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism. Fully honoring each would take weeks, but we do wish to honor as many as possible. Hence, the Memorial Meeting and Celebration described below is longer than the "normal" service.

We sincerely invite everyone to attend this almost-day-long celebration and we will completely understand if folks are only able to attend a portion. We will have a pot-luck dinner in the middle (3:45-4:30), including Mom's favorite pizza, wings, and pickled onions, so feel free to bring something to share - or not if that would be inconvenient for you.

We do have one small request, one which is, again, different from the norm. Because Mom had and still has such strong ties to so many different communities, we would like to have a general idea of how many people may attend this remembrance - we want to have enough chairs and tables and pickled onions for everyone! But also, the Foundation of Light has spaces for children to play, both inside and out, and we are happy to provide child care - we just need to know how many little ones may be coming.

More details about the schedule for the day and the RSVP request can be found on-line, here: <https://sites.google.com/site/carolyn-smemorial/>

In lieu of sending flowers, friends are encouraged to make a donation to our local SPCA, in Carolyn's name -- Tompkins County SPCA, 1640 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY. <http://www.spconline.com/>

We hope to share with you the joy that was our Mom.

— *Melanie Claire Mallison (and Carol and Robin)*

What do you have for the meetinghouse?

Friends, have you been saving books, toys, furniture, or other items in case the day should come when we have our own Meetinghouse? It may be useful to take an accounting of these items before we move in. Knowing that we have some items (a refrigerator, tables, rugs) may save us from planning to buy those things new. In addition, if we learn that we have more couches than we need for First Day School use, we may be in a position of refusing some generous offers.

Friends are invited to contact Susan Wolf, 272-1618, quakerwolf@gmail.com, with a description of any items they are hoping to provide to our new home.

Pastoral Care Committee Keeps Busy!

The Pastoral Care Committee, formed in January of 2010, has been hard at work within meeting this year. This committee aims to address spiritual and material needs that exist within our community. Some of these needs are transient and quite concrete, while others require ongoing attention and care. So far this year the committee has arranged for:

- Transportation to meeting and important appointments for those who are unable to drive
- Small Meetings for Worship and friendly visits at the residences of homebound F/friends
- Delivery of meals to individuals and families who have experienced the temporary stress of sudden illness or joy of a new family member
- One-on-one support for F/friends navigating spiritually difficult issues
- Yard and housework that cannot otherwise be done due to disability, injury, or illness

The Pastoral Care Committee is glad to provide many levels of confidential support when the need arises, even if the need seems small! Please contact anyone on the committee (Kathy Beissner, Marion DaGrossa, Bronwyn Mohlke, or Emily Williams) if you, or someone you know, could use some extra care.

The Quaker Explosion: Discussion after MfW

On June 13, 1652 at Firbank Fell in Westmoreland County, England, an itinerant preacher named George Fox preached for about three hours to a gathering of some 1,000 "Westmoreland Seekers." All 1,000 of the Seekers were persuaded by Fox's message, and joined his movement. Some 60 of them undertook taking the message they had just heard to every church England, a task that would take them 5 years. For the next ten years Quakerism became the fastest growing religious movement in England and her American colonies. Historian Rosemary Moore has called these years "The Quaker Explosion."

In 1660, though, persecution began to rain down on the young movement. Quakers were jailed by the thousands, dying by the hundreds in English jails. Although they continued their radical religious practices within the Society of Friends, they toned down the message they proclaimed to the outside world. Instead of accentuating its revolutionary aspects, they emphasized its similarities with orthodox Christianity.

What was the original message of early Quakerism? How did it change as Quakers sought to survive the storms of persecution? On Sunday, November 21st after the rise of meeting, Tony Gaenslen will provide a brief summary of the message of early Friends, and the changes that took place after 1660. The remaining time will be devoted to a discussion of the question, how would it affect our lives as Quakers today if we returned to at least some of the aspects of the original message? Please come and join the discussion in the cafe at Anabel Taylor Hall. Snacks will be provided. It should be a lively and interesting time.

Coming to Powell House: The 2nd Quaker Abolition: Ending Torture--QUIT with John Calvi and Chuck Fager

This event is at Powell House in Old Chatham, New York and begins Friday evening, with dinner at 6pm, and ends Sunday at 2pm. To register, please visit powellhouse.org, email sharon@powellhouse.org or call Sharon Koomler at 518-794-8811. Food and lodging is included in your registration. Ithaca Monthly Meeting can make scholarship funds available to first timers to Powell House.

Friends have come together before to work for long-term goals—ending slavery, women's suffrage, ending the American war in Vietnam. Another great work awaits— 2 generations of Friends may be needed to end torture as policy and practice in America. This weekend, the Quaker Initiative to End Torture - QUIT will study and make long range-plans for the next largest work in American history— the abolition of torture. We will cover a brief history, current legal and protest movements, and the absence of help from the current administration. You can be a part of a great work, one of the largest efforts Friends have ever undertaken. Stress reduction with John Calvi will be built-in to this weekend and the worst stories will not be told. Please join us.

John Calvi is the founding convener of The Quaker Initiative to End Torture - QUIT, begun in 2005. He has worked with torture survivors for 28 years and will give a plenary at NYYM. More information is at www.jobncalvi.com.

Chuck Fager is Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, near Fort Bragg. Much of the US "Torture Industrial Complex" is located in that area, and Chuck has been active in ending torture and seeking accountability since 2006. Chuck is also author of a study booklet, "Patience & Determination, Tools for Ending Torture and Seeking Accountability," which was jointly published by Quaker House and QUIT. More on Quaker House and Chuck's work there at www.quakerhouse.org.

Holocaust Commemoration

There will be a Holocaust Commemoration event at the James Law Auditorium in the Veterinary School at Cornell University Sunday November 7th at 1:30 PM. Several Meeting people will be singing in that event.

Quakers for Paws and Peace

On a sunny, damp Saturday morning in early October a small group of Friends joined forces and participated in the SPCA March for the Animals. With help and contributions from many in our Meeting, our team, "Quakers for Paws and Peace", was able to raise \$705 in support of the SPCA of Tompkins County. All together the SPCA March for the Animals raised about \$50,000! This money will go towards providing care, shelter, and spaying and neutering for homeless animals in Tompkins County and will help the SPCA toward maintaining its "no-kill" status. Friends speak of "that of God in everyone." I like to think also of "that of God in every being." Thank you to everyone who supports the SPCA and recognizes the Light within each neglected, abused, or homeless animal.



Melissa Dunham, Chris Dunham, Drew Sewell, Gina Varrichio, and Emily Williams at the SPCA's March for the Animals

Minutes of the October 10, 2010 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Steve Mohlke, Clerk

Tonia Saxon, Assistant Clerk

Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerks

Mike Simkin, 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 Clerk.)

201010.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with

Attention to Business in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall on October 10, 2010. At 12:30 PM, 15 Friends gathered and settled into silence. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business. He extended our appreciation to Friends with the special concern for holding today's Meeting in the Light, Carolyn Kenyon and Bronwyn Mohlke. Clerk invited us to reflect on a passage from Parker Palmer's book *A Forty-Day Journey*, which explores the therapeutic potential of "turning our private problems into public issues." Seeing our own concerns in the light of others' plight, and building communities of concern, ultimately heals ourselves as well.

Minutes continued on page 5

**Minutes of the October 10, 2010 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

201010.2 Social Justice Committee. Sue Ruff brought the committee's report, providing information and background for recommendations that Meeting make the following donations: \$200 to Women for Afghan Women, and \$100 to the World Fistula Fund. Both donations were APPROVED. @

201010.3 Finance Committee. Following up on discussion from September business meeting, Dick Crepeau reviewed some of the issues surrounding IMM's intention to accept short-term loans offered by members and attenders as a way to cover gaps in cash flow during the renovation of the Third Street meetinghouse. There is a full explanation of the process in the October newsletter; one excerpt clarifies the anticipated procedures: "Loans should be denominated in \$5,000 increments. Those who want to lend more can offer as many \$5,000 loans as they like. The interest rate should be specified with each offer. (For example, if there are Friends who would be willing to forgo the interest altogether or to accept less than 3.5%, let us know. An offer could be for \$5,000 at 0% interest and \$10,000 at 3.5% interest.) Since we already have offers sufficient to cover the entire \$200,000 at 3.5%, there is no need to offer loans at a higher interest rate. We are proposing that the term of the loans be three years and that interest be paid quarterly.

(Interest will be simple, not compound.) The Meeting will retain the right to repay the loans at any time as funds become available. Repayment will consist of the amount of the original principal plus the interest that has accrued since the last quarterly interest."

After discussion and clarification, Friends are comfortable with the loan process and procedures.

201010.4 Trustees. Marilyn Ray brought several matters from Trustees.

A) Because there may be times when it is important for the smooth progress of the renovations of the new Meetinghouse for decisions to be made before MM will meet, Trustees proposed the following Minute to address such instances, and it was APPROVED:

Project Management Committee is entrusted to make decisions which are time-sensitive, in consultation with Trustees as needed.

B) Historically the IMM Treasurer has been responsible for matters related to insurance, but due to the increasing complexity required to address Meeting-wide issues, the new position of Assistant to the Treasurer for Insurance is proposed. Trustees offered three minutes in relation to this proposal:

- 1) IMM approves the creation of the position of Assistant to the Treasurer for Insurance. This position will be filled by a nomination from Trustees subject to approval by MM to be reviewed tri-annually. APPROVED
- 2) IMM approves the following charge for the position of Assistant to the Treasurer for Insurance:

Assistant to the Treasurer for Insurance is charged with:

- Reviewing the insurance policies for all three properties with buildings to gain a thorough understanding of what the policies cover and what they do not cover, the amounts of the coverage, and any questions the review may raise;
- Working with the Insurance Agent who handles the IMM Insurance policy(ies) to answer any questions and develop a working relationship;
- Working with the three Property Committees—the Burr House Committee, the Hector Meetinghouse Committee, and the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee—to share suggestions and/or concerns which the committees or the Assistant to the Treasurer may have regarding insurance for all three buildings; and
- Working with the Treasurer to develop any suggestions for changes in the insurance policies, and to share issues, questions or concerns Finance and/or Trustees may have related to the cost and coverage of the suggested changes. APPROVED

3) Trustees nominate Fell Cadwallader to the position of Assistant to the Treasurer for Insurance. APPROVED.

C) The Trustees' report also included follow-up on two ongoing matters: obtaining an appraisal for the Route 79 property; and successful submission of IMM's grant proposal to the FGC Green Meetinghouse Committee, which will be considered at the FGC Fund's board in November. @s

201010.5 Treasurer's Report. Steve Mohlke brought the monthly report. Along with highlighting certain expenditures, receipts, and donations made by the Meeting, Treasurer reported that pledges and gifts for the Third Street meetinghouse have continued to rise during the past month. Friends received the report. @

201009.6 Other Concerns. A Friend's concern about the starting time of Meeting for Worship will be referred to Ministry and Worship Committee.

Fifteen Friends settled into worship at 1:22 PM before adjourning. Clerk expressed appreciation for the hours of effort put in by many people to prepare reports which facilitate the business of the Meeting. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall on November 14, 2010.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk*

Advices & Queries 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 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?

November 2010 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Please also see the on-line calendar at <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

Faith and Practice Discussion Sunday, November 7, 9:30a

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that the Faith and Practice discussion series begins again on first Sundays (November through May), gathering before Meeting for Worship in room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall. Our format begins with a reading and continues with engaging discussion to which we hope everyone will contribute.

The quality of the discussion can really be quite amazing. Bring your stories and a willingness to share. We will be picking up with the topic Covenant Commitments. See you there!

Social Justice Committee Sunday, November 7, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to join us in the cafe.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, November 14, Rise of Meeting

Agenda items should be provided to Steve Mohlke, clerk, by the preceding Wednesday. (Contact information is on page 1.)

Women's Fellowship Friday, November 19, 7p

Please join us at 7pm at the Ithaca Bakery, 400 N. Meadow Street. All are welcome. Have dinner or tea or baked goods... or not.

Every Sunday

- 11:00a Meeting for Worship for all ages
- 11:15a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather outside the Edwards Room..

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, November 20 at 10:30

All are welcome to gather at the Burt House for Peace Witness.

Quaker Basics II Sunday, November 21, Rise of Meeting

Please join us after meeting in the cafe for Quaker Basics, an informal forum for learning for about Quakerism. Tony Gaenslen will be speaking on the great "Quaker Explosion," as described on page 3. Bagels, cream cheese and cider will be provided.

"Cafe Day" Sunday, November 28, 11:15a

On the Sunday following Thanksgiving, regular First Day School classes will not meet. Instead, children of all ages will meet in the cafe for a shared activity.

Greta Mickey from NYYM Peace Concerns Sunday, December 5, Rise of Meeting

Greta Mickey, New York Yearly Meeting Peace Concerns Coordinator, will be speaking in the Cafe. We have asked her to share with us what the Yearly Meeting and other Monthly Meetings are doing in the areas of peace and social justice, and how our Meeting might unite with those efforts. Her visit with us is sponsored by the Peace Witness, Social Justice, and Earth Care Committees. Since this will take place on the first Sunday in December, please mark your calendars now. We will provide refreshments.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- 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