

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

February 2011

IMM CONTACTS

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227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
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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 February 24th**

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

“Share the Care” is one model for Pastoral Care

— Bronwyn Mohlke and Marion DaGrossa

Recently, a group of Ithaca Friends got together to read and discuss the book *Share the Care: How to Organize a Group to Care for Someone Who Is Seriously Ill*. This book is a marvelous resource with detailed instructions on how to set up a care team such that many friends can be involved with supporting a family while one of their family members is sick. By taking care of some of the logistics of what the family needs, it frees the family members to be with each other without having to take care of the day to day details.

Share the Care teams would not be made up solely of Friends from Ithaca Meeting, but also of friends in other circles of the family's life, such as co-workers, neighbors, book club members, etc. The Share the Care book clearly details how to organize a group of friends, such that they can all be involved without feeling overwhelmed by the commitment.

Anyone in Meeting who is in need of some support is encouraged to get in touch with the Pastoral Care committee. The family does not need to discern whether a Share the Care team is what is needed, the Pastoral Care committee can help determine that. Nor does the family need to come up with ideas of how F/friends can help. The book has a list of ideas with a

wide variety, from shoveling the driveway, bringing fresh flowers, running errands, providing transportation, providing child-care, caring for pets, to going along to doctors' visits, managing medications, and helping to keep track of the bills and insurance information. Members of the Pastoral

Care committee would meet with the family in advance to go over many options (and leave out ones the family does not feel comfortable with), and would then run an organizational meeting to begin the whole process. The Share the Care model is set up in a way that the family does not need to make

phone calls nor solicit help, the team can arrange all of that.

For those of you who are interested in knowing more, you can check out their Website at www.sharethecare.org or get the book *Share the Care* by Cappy Capossela and Sheila Warnock. The public library has a copy, and so does the Pastoral Care committee.

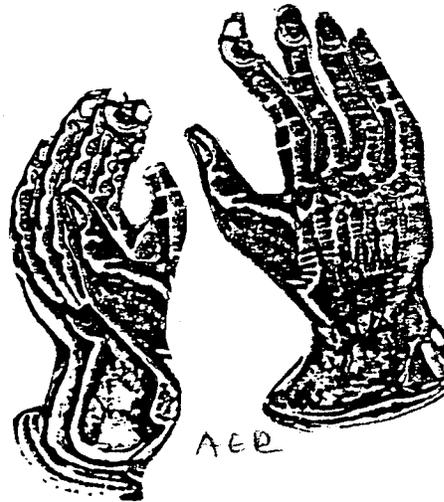
Pastoral Care Committee:

Kathy Beissner (280-1243)

Marion DaGrossa (273-4020)

Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183)

Emily Williams (703-297-9849)



News from the Social Justice Committee: Labor Religion Coalition of the Finger Lakes

Ithaca Friends have been represented for a number of years on the Tompkins County Religious Taskforce for a Living Wage. The Taskforce along with the other faith communities active on it (Unitarians, First Baptists, the Lutheran Church near Collegetown, the Reformed Temple, Catholic Charities, plus a few occasional others) are announcing some changes and an invitation.

For many years the "Religious Task Force For a Living Wage" in collaboration with the Tompkins County Workers Center, has brought together people to promote the living wage and other workers rights issues. Through the initiative of local NYSUT members the group is now reaching out to faith and labor communities to launch the Labor Religion Coalition of the Finger Lakes.

Leaders and members of faith and labor communities from the Finger Lakes region are cordially invited to an inaugural meeting in Ithaca on Wednesday, Feb. 9th at 7 p.m. at the union hall of the Laborers Local785, located at 622 W. State St, in Ithaca. The program will include an overview of the mission of the statewide Labor Religion Coalition, which has worked on labor rights for over 30 years and also an opportunity to begin strategizing on labor rights issues, including living wage, bullying in the workplace and elimination of sweatshops.

For more information call Marjorie Baines at 269.0145, leave a message, or email madbaines@gmail.com.

What is the State of our Meeting?

Monthly Meetings are called each year to prepare a State of the Meeting report which, according to Faith and Practice, "should be a searching self-examination by the meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts made to foster growth in the spiritual life." This year we are considering the following queries:

1. Meetings are living bodies and thus experience cycles of growth and dormancy. What new growth do you greet in your meeting? What losses do you mourn?
2. Many meetings struggle with issues of the world such as racism, class inequality, and discrimination by sexual orientation. With what issues does your meeting struggle? How does your meeting labor with difficult issues?

If you have thoughts you have not yet shared, please contact someone on the Ministry and Worship Committee: Marin Clarkberg, Barbara Ganzel, Carolyn Kenyon, Chuck Mohler, or Wendy Wolfe before February 17th.

Funraising Challenge for Food Banks

Perhaps most Friends are familiar with the Kitchen Cupboard, as Ithaca Monthly Meeting has long set out a collection basket on second Sundays and asked for your generosity to help reduce hunger in our community.

In March and April, your donations will go further due to a fundraising challenge called The Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge.

Kitchen Cupboard started in 1969 when a small group recognized a need for inexpensive food accessibility in the area and formed a local chapter of Area Congregations Together (ACT), a regional group where people of all faiths, from Christian to Jewish to Unitarian, join together to combat poverty and hunger relief.

The network has since expanded to 13 food distribution sites in the county. All are staffed by volunteers, and they acquire food from food drives, donations, government programs and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the agency that funds these food pantries' existence.

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier, based in Elmira, will participate in the national fundraising promotion sponsored by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island.

In short, the Feinstein Foundation will divide its own \$1 million proportionately between all non-profit anti-hunger groups that report the funds that they raise during the Challenge between March 1st and April 30th, 2010. The greater the donations received by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier during this timeframe as a result of the challenge, the more funds from the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge the Food Bank will receive.

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is moving into a new location in the next month with much more space for offices and food so more donations can be accepted. Currently, this Food Bank distributes over 6 million pounds of food every year, and with the new facility they expect to get up to 13 million pounds.

Floating Meeting with Attention to Football

The season is once again upon us for the annual Quaker Superbowl Party at Chris & Melissa's house. Gather with F/friends and cheer the Pittsburgh Steelers on to victory in Superbowl XLV! (Packers fans are also invited.)

If football is not your interest you can also feel free to adjourn to another room to engage in less violent pursuits (like board games, knitting, Legos, or just talking).

This gathering is Sunday February 6, 2011 starting at 6pm at Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham's house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca.

Pizza (vegan and vegetarian) and some beverages will be provided. (Quaker kids will be pleased to know we've learned our lesson after last year and will make sure the plain cheese pizza is the first to come out of the oven.) Please bring other beverages or snacks to share (think finger foods) or a favorite pizza topping. Please RSVP by Friday Feb 4 if you know you're coming or think you might come, so we know how much pizza fixings to acquire. If you need directions or have questions contact Chris or Melissa at 277-9599 or c_j_dunham@yahoo.com or mtravis823@yahoo.com.

**Minutes of the January 9, 2011 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.)

201101.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and for the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF Inc., in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall on January 11, 2011. At 12:35 PM, 31 Friends gathered and settled into silence. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business. He extended our appreciation Bruce Berggren-Thomas, who had the special concern for holding today's Meeting in the Light. Clerk read a quote from Robin Greenler of Northern Yearly Meeting: "The goal is not a smooth passage; it is only that we may faithfully witness to God's work as it unfolds." Copies of annual reports were distributed.

201101.A 2011 Annual Meeting of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc.

Present: Marjorie Baines, Barbara Barry, Katherine Beissner, Bruce Berggren-Thomas, Marin Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa, Esther Darlington, Chris Dunham, James Finlay, Janet Frieswyk, Nancy Gabriel, Chris Gartlein, Ginny Gartlein, Nancy Hillegas, Janis Kelly, Carolyn Kenyon, Elizabeth Keokosky, Margaret McCasland, Bronwyn Mohlke, Steve Mohlke, Nancy Norton, Marilyn Ray, Elspeth Rhodin, Ellie Rosenberg, Antonia Saxon, Melissa Travis Dunham, Erica Weiss, Christianne White, and Susan Wolf.

1) Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees and President of the Corporation, opened the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF, Inc., and gave the Trustees' annual report for 2010. 2) Marilyn Ray also read the 2010 report from Will White, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation, who could not be present today. 3) Steve Mohlke, Clerk, read the 2010 annual report from Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Meeting and of the Corporation, who could not be present today.

Meeting received the reports. @

This ended the Annual meeting of the Corporation.

201101B.1 Nominating Committee

Erica Weiss distributed the complete 2011 roster of Friends serving in offices and committees of the Meeting. One addition was proposed to the list which had been approved in December: Marjorie Baines has volunteered to serve as a Trustee. This nomination was APPROVED. @

201101B.2 Annual reports

Friends presented the annual reports for the following committees: Burt House, Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM), Earthcare, Hector Meeting House, Hospitality, Ministry and Worship, Nominating, Pastoral Care, Peace Witness, Program, Publicity, Social Justice. In addition to these, written reports were received from the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support, Finance, Library, Newsletter, Route 79 Property, Young Friends. Clerk reflected on the quantity of work that is represented in these condensed reports, and suggested that each committee take time to think and share creatively about their hopes and goals for 2011.

Friends received the annual reports. @

Twenty-one Friends settled into worship at 1:50 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall on February 13, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk

Save The Date: Getting Your Documents in Order

The Pastoral Care committee is hosting a discussion on end of life issues on Saturday, March 26 from 1:00 to 4:00ish at the Burt House. Marcie Finlay will talk about documents that are helpful to have in order before medical emergencies arise, such as Healthcare Proxy and Power of Attorney.

When ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation Help) coordinators Barbara Spring and Anita Paul came to our Meeting to lead a workshop on end of life issues, Friends appreciated the chance to talk about end of life issues within our faith community. We would like to offer the possibility of continuing that discussion, and following through on getting our documents in order. Look for more details in the March newsletter.

Save The Date: Indian Affairs Discussion

There will be a discussion of the YM Indian Affairs Committee minute on the Doctrine of Discovery and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and on how our lives might be involved with these issues, at the Burt house. This has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, March 10th. There will be more information in next month's newsletter and on the list-serve. Contact Susan Wolf for more information [272-1618, QuakerWolf@gmail.com]

Advices & Queries from NYM Faith & Practice

Advice 11. In the contemplation of marriage, Friends should seek divine guidance. Marriage is a life-long union of spiritual as well as temporal concerns and presents considerations of vital importance. When two persons are united in their religious faith, they are likely to find not only a firmer bond of union but also greater strength in fulfilling all of life's undertakings. Therefore, Friends contemplating marriage should early acquaint their families and meetings with their intentions, seeking their approval, that they may avoid the far-reaching consequences of hasty and ill-considered action. It is tenderly recommended that Friends keep to the simple and solemn form of our marriage ceremony.

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?

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?

Query 15. Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily lives so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?

February 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

State of the Meeting Report Sunday, January 30, Rise of Meeting

Monthly Meetings are called each year to prepare a State of the Meeting report which, according to Faith and Practice, "should be a searching self-examination by the meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts made to foster growth in the spiritual life." Please join us to examine with us the state of our Meeting.

Social Justice Committee Sunday, February 6, Rise of Meeting

If you have a concern or issue you would like Social Justice to consider, feel free to attend our Meetings or contact Susan Ruff or Barbara Barry before Social Justice Committee meetings.

Floating Meeting Sunday, February 6, 6p

This gathering at Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham's house, 105 Dunmore Place, will feature the televised Superbowl. All are welcome, including those who are critical and/or ignorant of the sport of football. RVSP requested; see page 2 for more information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, February 13, 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, February 17, 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.

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, February 19, 10:30a

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

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..

Other Weekly IMM Events

- 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