



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

**July 2011**

**IMM CONTACTS**

**Meetinghouse:**

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850  
607-229-9500

**Clerk:**

Steve Mohlke  
52 Gray Road • Ithaca NY 14850  
607-216-8411  
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

**Treasurer:**

Mike Simkin  
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886  
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

**Ministry & Worship:**

Marin Clarkberg  
607-279-4722 • clarkberg@cornell.edu

**Pastoral Care:**

Emily Williams  
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

**Childcare Requests:**

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

**Burt House:**

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence  
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-273-5421

**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

**Scheduling:**

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting and/or to reserve a room at the meeting-house, please see the instructions on the website.

**Website:** [ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)



**New York Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay on Lake George**

Friends are invited to participate in a gathering of our state's Quakers during New York Yearly Meeting's Summer Sessions, July 17–23. This annual gathering takes place at the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks on the shores of Lake George.

What is Silver Bay like? The facilities themselves are impressive, centered around the old Adirondack inn built in the early 1900s as a conference center for the YMCA. The Inn overlooks a large lawn and the beautiful Lake George. There are several other buildings on the campus, including a boat house stocked with canoes, rowboats and kayaks. There are swimming beaches, tennis courts, craft facilities and a climbing wall. Many of these resources are available to registrants without an additional charge, while some incur a nominal fee. All meals are also included in the lodging costs.

A typical before-lunch schedule includes a sunrise Meeting for Worship before breakfast; breakfast; an opportunity for "worship sharing" with a small group (which you might choose, or to which you might be

assigned), and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. (With hundreds in attendance, this is an entirely different experience of business meeting than we regularly experience here in Ithaca.) After lunch, things are more variable, and many Friends carve time out of the afternoon for recreation and social activities in addition to any committee meetings.

This year's theme is "Peace with Earth: Transforming Our Communities," and the keynote speaker will be Anne Mitchell, general secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Registration information is available at [nym.org](http://nym.org). Newcomers might find the registration process daunting; for example, registering for and paying for *lodging* is handled a little differently than registering and paying for the NYYM part. Friends with questions are encouraged to contact others who have navigated this process before, including Marin Clarkberg, Bronwyn Mohlke, and/or Marion DaGrossa.

— *Marin Clarkberg*

## Proposal for the Meetinghouse: No Perfumes, please

The high school-aged First Day School group—the Power Quakers—propose that our new meeting house be as scent-free as possible to help include and maintain the health of all of the people who are affected by chemical fragrances.

We wish to increase the awareness within the meeting community about the potential impact of fragrance chemicals on the health and ask for the voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment while providing the steps for responding to scent-related issues. The Power Quakers have been meeting during First Day School sessions to work on this policy, to do some research, and to provide information so the Meeting can be well-informed on this issue.

We would ask that people attending events in the meetinghouse be willing to consider limiting or not wearing personal-care products or items that are scented. We recognize that individual situations are different, and we understand that it may be difficult for everyone to locate personal care products that are both effective and scent-free. We will not force people not to use scent-free products—we want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable, but lower scent or scent-free products would be preferable, especially if someone in attendance is bothered by scents.

As a meetinghouse that is striving to be as scent-free as possible, we would try not to use products or items which are scented. These would include [but not be limited to] scented candles, incense, room fresheners, scented dish soap, chemical-smelling markers, and cleaning products. Scented personal-care products would include [but not be limited to] perfume, deodorant, cologne, aftershave, hand lotion, and hairspray.

We generally think that it is a personal choice to use fragrances; however, fragrance chemicals are by their very nature shared. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. A general guideline for scented products is that the scent should not be detectable more than an arm's length away from you.

### Why does this issue arise?

This issue arises because some people are extremely sensitive to scents and chemicals associated with scents. This condition is known as Multiple Chemical Syndrome or MCS and can be mild and annoying or severe and debilitating. MCS falls under the Americans with Disabilities Act which says that MCS is a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of a person who has it.

### What is the issue?

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals such as asthma attacks, allergic reactions, or migraines.

### Is this a problem for anyone in our Meeting?

There is at least one person who is affected seriously by MCS and several people who are less affected by scent. In general, about 15% of the population suffers some difficulty with issues around scent and of that number; about 5% have serious MCS.

### What did the survey results say?

People who filled out the scent-free survey sent to the Meeting's listserv in April were bothered by scents at different levels:

- 20% of people were not bothered at all
- 47% were bothered but not seriously
- 22% were bothered and sometimes reacted and got symptoms,
- 9% were bothered significantly
- 2% had serious health problems regarding scents

In regards to natural scents such as flowers and plants, 78% were not bothered and 22% were.

### What can the Meeting do about it?

- Place information regarding this issue on the meetinghouse website and possibly on the Yearly Meeting website, and on the Quakerfinder.org website.
- Develop brochures about this issue regarding scents to be available in the meetinghouse
- Place a small sign in the kitchen, and each bathroom that said something like:

We strive to keep our meetinghouse scent-reduced or scent-free. For more information on how you can do your part, please visit the meetinghouse website, IthacaMonthlyMeeting.org, or pick up a brochure explaining this issue.

### What do we do if someone is wearing a scent?

If someone shows up to several meetinghouse events where there is also a person who is affected by the scent and both people plan on continuing to come, then someone could approach the person and let them know how this was affecting others in meeting and let them decide how they would like to handle the situation.

### What scent-free products can I buy and where?

Scent-free products and soaps are readily available at Green Star, Wegmans, and online. The Power Quakers can provide a list of scent-free personal care items and scent-free cleaning products.

— Alma Mohlke

## Proposal for the Meetinghouse: Building Use Policy

The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC) has had numerous requests for use of the space, beginning almost from the day we began worshipping at the Third Street meetinghouse. These requests have come from individuals within the meeting, from groups active in the Northside neighborhood, and from organizations in the wider Ithaca community. We do take seriously the meeting's desire to "knit ourselves into the neighborhood" and "become more visible in the community," and realize that offering our building for community use is one way we can give of ourselves.

Our meetinghouse has already been the venue for the annual interdenominational Pastors' Breakfast sponsored by Catholic Charities, for two "talking circles" organized by the Multicultural Resource Center which meet once a week for six weeks, and for two Quaker memorial services. Shortly, a small singing group will be meeting in the meeting room once a week over the summer. In each of these cases, at least one meeting member has been involved with these groups and been present as a "sponsor". These requests have been easy to honor.

Other organizations expressing an interest in using our meetinghouse, including those with no connection to the meeting and/or groups which wish to use our space daily for long periods of time, have been more problematic. We feel that we need a settling in

period before we can be comfortable making a long-term sharing commitment for many hours per week. We also feel that we want to continue the practice of having a member of meeting present and responsible during the time that outside groups have use of the building.

After deep searching, the TSMC proposes the following two policies initially, policies which we expect will be revisited and possibly relaxed as we gain experience sharing the building:

1. We propose postponing renting the building to organizations that intend to use the building more than 10 hours a week. This requirement preserves the identity of the meetinghouse, and recognizes there are limits to what we can offer in terms of commitments of time and effort.
2. We propose requiring that events have a IMM sponsor who will open and close the building, work with the group, and coordinate the group's use with the TSMC. We feel this requirement helps the meeting develop a relationship with the organization as well as offer some oversight.

The TSMC will be bringing this proposal to the July Meeting for Business. We are working on other policies for use of the new meetinghouse but we felt these two are the most important right now.

— *Members of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee:*  
*Larry Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa,*  
*Tony Serviente, Garry Thomas, Lynn Truame*

### Who is Using the Third Street Meetinghouse?

We moved into the Third Street Meetinghouse on April 10th of this year, soon after the completion of the contract with Latipac Builders. Several important tasks still remain in enhancing the building's usability and comfort. Given that, and in the absence of a clear building use policy, we have also attempted to proceed slowly in the offering of our building to others. That said, already there has been an impressive demand for our facilities. These uses include:

**Committee meetings:** Many of our own committees now meet at the meetinghouse. Given the many rooms upstairs, it is easy to have multiple committees meeting at the same time.

**Memorial services:** we have had two very well-attended memorial services (for Jean Parker and Carolyn Pineo); both made good use of our new food serving capacities.

**Talking Circles:** One of the Talking Circles for Racism has been meeting on a regular basis at the meetinghouse.

**Sleepovers:** We have had two events involving sleepovers: the 24-hour Meeting for Worship, and a retreat for younger kids organized and facilitated by the Power Quakers.

**Healing Ithaca:** Late this summer or early next fall, we expect to host an interfaith prayer service to facilitate healing, understanding, and reconciliation across all perceived divides in Ithaca.

### Directory for Traveling Friends

We have just acquired the most current version of the Directory for Traveling Friends. Published by Quaker Press of Friends General Conference since 1978, this directory has provided a wonderful resource for Friends. It includes information about home hospitality or camping space available to Friends traveling for business, recreation, or meeting visitation or Quaker service. One of the special aspects of the Directory is how it builds on the long history of the "traveling minutes" or letters of introduction from a home meeting carried by traveling Friends.

Any Friend who would like to provide hospitality can post in the Directory. Postings are from all over the world and are organized alphabetically by location. The Directory does not include organizations or bed and breakfasts where there are fees. Travelers need to make contacts well in advance and to carry a minute or letter introduction from a home meeting.

This new copy is a reference volume and will not circulate. It is bound in a three-ring binder (turquoise). Until the library shelves are prepared at Third Street, it will be located at the Burr House Library on the shelf above Quaker Basics.

— *Wilma Brown*

## Summer Events at Farmington Meeting

The 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse Museum is presenting a series of summer open houses, tours, and lectures. Coming up:

July 30: David Anderson, chair, Rochester and Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission: "Austin Steward and the Underground Railroad in Farmington"

August 27: Carol Faulkner, History Department, Syracuse University: "Lucretia Mott, American Hero"

All talks are at 2:00 p.m. at Farmington Friends Meeting, 187 County Rd. 8, Farmington, NY. Funded by the New York Council for the Humanities. For information contact [historicalnewyork@me.com](mailto:historicalnewyork@me.com).

## Worship at Historic Wheatland Meeting House at Genesee Country Village

Join Friends from the region in a special Meeting for Worship event on Sunday, July 31 at the Wheatland Meeting House inside the Genesee Country Village living history museum in Mumfords, NY.

This meetinghouse was built in 1854 and still has a partition down the middle that could be opened or closed, depending on whether women and men were meeting separately or together. The Wheatland Friends Meeting was laid down in 1873 due to dwindling membership. The building was conveyed to the museum in 1967.

Friends should check in at 10:30 am, and worship will be held from 11 am to noon.

Because this historic meetinghouse is inside Genesee Country Village, there is a charge to attend: adults are \$10; teens 13–17 are \$5; children 12 and under are free. There is also a family rate of \$30. Financial assistance available upon request.

There will be a dish-to-pass lunch following worship at the Nature Center Pavilion. All are welcome.

Please send payment and a list of people in your group attending (with age range—adult/teen/child) to Suzanne Blackburn, 9609 Riley Lane, Nunda NY 14517. Make checks payable to Suzanne Blackburn. For questions, contact Suzanne at [kandsblackburn@gmail.com](mailto:kandsblackburn@gmail.com) or 585-468-5274.

## Home for Sale in Ecovillage

Susan Wolf's neighbor is listing a 2-bedroom home. 860 square feet Energy Star Labeled home at EcoVillage. \$170,000 or \$1250/month + utilities. Contact Lauren Shaw at 607.483.8758.

## Taken from the Epistle from the Elders of Balby of 1656

*The elders and brethren send unto the brethren in the north these necessary things following; to which, if in the light you wait, to be kept in obedience, you shall do well. Fare well.*

1. That the particular meetings by all the children of Light, be duly kept and observed, where they be already settled, every first-day of the week....
2. That care be taken, that as any are brought into the truth, meetings be in such places amongst them, as may be for the most convenience of all....
3. That if any person draw back from meetings, and walk disorderly, some go to speak to such as draw back; to exhort and admonish such with a tender, meek spirit, whom they find negligent or disorderly....
4. That as any are moved of the Lord to speak the word of the Lord at such meetings, that it be done in faithfulness, without adding or diminishing....
5. That collections be timely made for the poor, (that are so indeed), as they are moved, according to order, for relief of prisoners, and other necessary uses, as need shall require.... [...]
15. That all Friends that have callings and trades, do labour in the thing that is good, in faithfulness and uprightness, and keep to their yea and nay in all their communications....
16. That no-one speak evil of another, neither judge one against another; but rather judge this, that none put a stumbling-block or occasion to fall in his brother's way.
17. That none be busy bodies in others' matters, but each one to bear another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ; that they be sincere and without offence, and that all things that are honest, be done without murmuring, and disputing, that you may be blameless and harmless....
18. That Christian moderation be used towards all men: that they who obey not the word, may be won with those that in the word dwell, to guide in an holy life and godly conversation.
19. That the Elders made by the holy Ghost, feed the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof willingly, not by constraint, but of a willing mind; neither as lords over God's heritage, but as examples to the flock of Christ.
20. That the younger submit themselves to the elder, yea all be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble

*Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by; but that all, with a measure of the light, which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not in the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.*

**Minutes of the June 12, 2011 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

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*Clerk: Steve Mohlke*

*Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon*

*Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel and Marilyn Ray*

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

**2011-06.01 Gathering.** Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Worship with Attention to Business on June 12, 2011. At 12:05 PM, 15 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and introduced Elspeth Rhodin and Rebecca Tanner who would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read a passage from The Journal of John Woolman.

**2011-06.02 Ministry and Worship (M&W).** Carolyn Kenyon presented the following three proposals from M&W.

- a. Ithaca Monthly Meeting charges M&W with making the decision about whether to continue worshipping at the Hector Meetinghouse through September. APPROVED @
- b. Ithaca Monthly Meeting affirms the practice of refraining from including praise or thanks for individuals in our newsletters, minutes, and other records. Traditionally, Friends have held that everyone who is part of Meeting is presumed to be contributing to the extent of their capacity. Even those who do not contribute time or money or special talents may be contributing in a subtle spiritual way; perhaps just their presence in Meeting for Worship or the way they interact with people contributes to the growth of the Spirit within the meeting. We note that our Meeting is especially generous with thanks and praise in informal settings. APPROVED @
- c. Ithaca Monthly Meeting affirms the practice of individuals making announcements at the rise of meeting about events that are meaningful to them and that may be of interest to the wider meeting. When giving announcements about non-Meeting events, individuals are encouraged to limit the details to the title of the event, a short (about 1 or 2 sentences) description, the date and time and an invitation for how to find more information. APPROVED @

**2011-06.03 Clerk's Business.** After discussion of the process Ithaca Monthly Meeting will use to determine the colors for the Third Street Meetinghouse, the following minutes were APPROVED.

- a. The Third Street Meetinghouse (TSMH) Committee is charged with making a decision about color(s) for the exterior of the Meetinghouse and is invited to test their proposal with Ithaca Monthly Meeting in July. For this decision the TSMH Committee will obtain input from Friends during the transition meeting on June 19, 2011. @
- b. The TSMH Committee is also charged with making decision(s) regarding interior colors for the Meetinghouse in consultation with the following Committees: M&W; CALM; Library; and Hospitality and to solicit additional information from Friends regarding other issues related to color. @

**2011-06.04 Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer reported that we have assets at approximately 1.3 million dollars and liabilities of about \$120,000. The total of assets minus liabilities is roughly 1.2 million dollars. To date we have received 34.6% of the total requested for donations for 2011. Overall, costs for the TSMH purchase and renovations were estimated at \$600,000 and right now we are only \$3,000 over budget. Friends received the report. @

2011-06.05 Other Concerns

Carolyn Kenyon asked the following:

1. How do we decide which external groups use the Meetinghouse?  
When does the TSMH Committee make a decision & when does a request come to Monthly Meeting?  
What criteria will be used to make the decisions, for example, the frequency of the requested use?
2. Monthly Meeting needs to make a decision regarding priorities for external requests for use. This could involve a sub-committee of TSMH Committee or a working group.

Clerk proposed that these two concerns be referred to the TSMH Committee. APPROVED @

At 2:10 PM, 13 Friends settled into open worship before adjourning the Meeting. We will gather again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on July 10, 2011.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk*



### **New Thursday Evening Meeting for Worship**

In response to a desire on the part of some members and regular attenders for more opportunities to spend time in worship together, we will be adding a new

Meeting for Worship to our regular calendar. Beginning Thursday, July 7, Meeting for Worship will be held at the Third Street Meeting House from 5:30-6:30p. Childcare will be provided. We hope to see you there!

### **Neighborhood Event: 28th Annual National Night Out 2011**

In Conway Park (Hancock St) on Tuesday, Aug 2nd, 5-9 pm, National Night Out is a police-community partnership for the prevention of crime, drugs, and violence within the community while promoting safety and neighborhood unity. This community-wide family event featuring live entertainment, food and fun attracts many people within surrounding neighborhoods. This is a good opportunity to meet folks and get ourselves known in our new neighborhood!

## **July 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

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

### **Thursday Worship Thursday, July 7, 5:30p**

Please see description above.

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, July 10, Rise of Meeting**

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

### **Thursday Worship Thursday, July 14.. 21... 28, etc., 5:30p**

You get the idea... this is to become a weekly event.

### **Women's Fellowship Friday, July 15, 7p**

Enjoy fellowship with your dinner, tea and/or a pastry at the Ithaca Bakery.

### **Brunch Sunday, July 24, Rise of Meeting**

Join us in a dish-to-pass brunch after the rise of meeting.

### **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 28, 5p**

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu).

Note: there will be no Peace Witness Committee meeting in July.

### **Advices & Queries** from NYYM Faith & Practice

*Advice 1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.*

*Query 1. Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?*

*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?*

### **Every Sunday**

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather upstairs. Please be mindful of the sounds!

### **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
- Thurs 5:30-6:30p Meeting for worship at the Third Street Meetinghouse