



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2011

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

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607-229-9500

Clerk:

Steve Mohlke
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Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
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Ministry & Worship:

Marin Clarkberg
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Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
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Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

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Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
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

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

Let's Work Together: Meetinghouse Interior Painting

Working together is a great way to get to know someone. In some contexts, meeting someone new can be uncomfortable. But when you work together you're focussed on the work, not on each other. And so playful banter manages to slip in and often leads to a sharing of personal histories. When I work at the meetinghouse with an acquaintance it never fails that I get to know them more deeply.

We have just such an opportunity to work together: painting the rooms of the meetinghouse. We painted the library at the work day last week; we have eleven more rooms to go. I'd like to schedule two or

three-person teams to paint each room, about one room a week. So we'll need a team for most weekends in November, December, and January. We are using "no-VOC" (meaning not smelly) paint so painting indoors in the winter is not an issue. I suggest we work Saturdays from 10am to 2pm, but each paint crew can work out their own schedule. I'll sign up painters, I'll provide the materials, and you provide the labor. Contact me at larry@knowledgetown.com or 607-277-9364 to sign up. Let me know your painting experience and your preferred dates. I especially encourage newcomers to sign up.

— Larry Clarkberg

Thinking About the Use of Alcohol in IMM Buildings

During October Meeting for Business, meeting approved the Building Use Policy drafted by the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, but was left with questions about the issue of alcohol use in the building.

The policy as drafted said that while as a rule no alcohol should be consumed in the building, exceptions might be made, and that alcohol might be consumed outdoors in the building's courtyard. Several concerns were raised about this clause.

One speaker voiced the concern that wedding parties might reject the meetinghouse as a venue if alcohol could not be consumed there.

Concern was expressed about the meeting room—maybe, a few people suggested, since that room was felt to be special, we could forbid the consumption of alcohol there even if we allowed alcohol in other rooms.

New York Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* speaks of Friends' use of alcohol:

When we open ourselves to God, we want to unclutter our lives, to free ourselves from dependence on our possessions and self-indulgences, or from encumbering details and self-appointed tasks and activities that consume and distract us. We endeavor to live free from the potential dangers involved in the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, the practice of gambling, and excessive eating. We realize the tragic results of these practices, not only to the practitioner, but to family, friends, and others. Social custom often makes it difficult or embarrassing to decline to use or to serve intoxicants, and we may help others by our example of standing clear from the use of these substances. Simplicity releases us from that which drains and depletes us and redirects our energy toward God.

Alcohol continued on page 2

At the meeting, the Building Policy was approved with the wording that exceptions to the no-alcohol rule might be negotiated. Meeting also charged Ministry and Worship to further consider the question of the use of alcohol in all the Meeting's buildings.

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At October's Ministry and Worship meeting, the discussion took a different turn. The committee started off with a neutral stance toward the alcohol policy, but gradually, as we continued to consider it, we found ourselves led toward a different view. By the end of the discussion, the committee felt an appropriate policy would be that no alcohol be permitted in the Meetinghouse. (We did imagine a scenario whereby another religious group using the Meetinghouse needed to use alcohol for some religious purpose—if, say, a Catholic group had to hold Mass in the Meetinghouse for some reason. We decided we would make an exception in a case like this.)

Some found the guidance in *Faith and Practice* persuasive and clear. One spoke of the pressure placed on those who don't use alcohol by those who do, and expressed a wish that the Meetinghouse be free of that pressure. Independent of what people say or do, the presence of alcohol creates a difficult situation for some such as recovering alcoholics.

Uses of the Third Street Meetinghouse

Most of us are aware of our meetinghouse's heavy use on Sundays, what with pancake breakfasts, brunches, Quakerism 101s, meetings of the Nominating, Hospitality, and Earthcare committees (amongst others), and Larry's Friends Bike Clinic, not to mention Meeting for Worship and First Day School. And then there are a number of IMM groups which meet during the week: Midweek Meeting and Thursday worship meeting; Third Street Meetinghouse Committee on alternate Wednesday mornings; and Trustees, M&W, Program Committee and Women's Fellowship all meeting at least once a month in the evenings. The meetinghouse is kept clean by a Sweepers group of 16 meeting members, working in pairs on a weekly rotation, coordinated by Melody Johnson.

Increasingly, a number of non-Quaker groups, some with significant Quaker presence, are using our meetinghouse as well.

On October 4, we hosted the Healing Ithaca Prayer Service, this a group of about 40 people from Ithaca and Tompkins County which began meeting in different houses of worship after the 2010 death of Shawn Greenwood and arson at the home of Officer Bryan Bangs, with a goal of building a more loving and caring community.

On October 9, Sue Baker-Carr and Melody Johnson were joined by a number of others from Ithaca for their Singing for Peace group that's been meeting regularly at the meetinghouse for several months.

On October 10, Liam Murphy and his lawyer friends rented the Third Street Meetinghouse for an all day workshop on mediation as an alternative form of adjudicating disputes.

On October 18, the Natural Leaders Initiative (NLI) held its

More practical concerns entered our discussion as well. How were we going to police alcohol consumption in the building anyway, others asked? Were we prepared to enforce a policy where people were drinking outside but not inside? Would we allow some kinds of alcohol and forbid others?

Liability was an issue. We considered that we could be held liable for harm that came to a guest at the meetinghouse who had been drinking. We worried about disagreements or noise or damage that might result from a function at which alcohol had been served.

The more we talked, the more certain we felt that alcohol should not be permitted in the meetinghouse, and that this policy should hold for all the meeting's buildings.

These are the concerns that Ministry and Worship has. Now we are asking the Meeting to consider this issue. What have we missed? What questions should we be asking? We want to ask Friends to contribute to the discussion. Send us your messages and let us know what you are thinking. Ministry and Worship will take up the question again at our meeting on November 17 with the comments we receive as part of the discussion. This will help us prepare the matter for wider discussion.

— Tonia Saxon, on behalf of Ministry & Worship

second of seven training workshops that will be held at the meetinghouse this year, this a collaborative effort of GIAC, the Multicultural Resource Center, Tompkins County Action and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

On October 26, IMM hosted Theonesta Bizimana, the Quaker co-founder of the Healing and Rebuilding our Communities program in Rwanda.

On October 30, "Richie Sing," a group of individuals who have been meeting at least once monthly for many years, used not only the meetinghouse but also our many copies of Rise Up Singing, this time hosted by Carol and Chuck Mohler, preceded by a dish-to-pass.

These events not only put us on the Northside map and help "knit ourselves into the community," we are also enriched spiritually, as our worship sharing in recent Meetings for Worship has demonstrated.

— Garry Thomas

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On Thursday, Nov. 17, the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program will be using the meetinghouse from 5:30 to 7:00pm for one of their three annual family dinners. There are 35 young people, from grades 6 through the first year of college, in the Paul Schreurs Program this year. This program provides academic, personal and financial support to young people who show interest in education and/or job training beyond high school, but face obstacles in achieving their goals. Such obstacles may include, but are not limited to, poor grades, low self-esteem, lack of finances, and personal or family difficulties.

— Carolyn Kenyon

November in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a rich history that now exceeds 80 years. Our meeting historian, Tom Brown, has obtained, digitized, and summarized the minutes of past business meetings. Below is Tom's selection for November.

10 Years Ago (Nov 12, 2001)

Friends centered in worship to hold in the Light those who will participate in Witness against the School of the Americas.

Meeting approved that IMM be listed as a supporting organization of the Tompkins County Living Wage Coalition.

15 Years Ago (Nov 11, 1996)

Mary Beth Tierney was heartily welcomed into membership of IMM.

20 Years Ago (Nov 11, 1991)

IMM closed out its funds related to the Sanctuary program for Central American refugees by transferring nearly \$2,500 to the Ithaca area Sanctuary Committee. These funds were earmarked for three purposes: assistance for two former local Sanctuary participants, "Juan" and "Esperanza," and for the Border Fund, which aided refugees all along the US southern border. [Note: For an article on this topic nationally, Google "Sanctuary Movement" and click on the Wikipedia article.]

Nominating Committee Call to Service

It's that time again, when we each reflect on how we might be involved perhaps in a new way in Meeting life. Want to get to know the children better? Offer warm greetings or refreshments as folks come in? Or join those who are bringing Friends' witness for peace or social justice or earthcare out into the larger community? Working side by side complements sitting side by side in worship, and the understanding and affection for those we see around us on First Days grows as we meet one another in new contexts. Think about it. Nancy Gabriel (ntg2@cornell.edu; 277-8930) can help steer you toward what interests you.

30 Years Ago (Nov 9, 1981)

Prior to the start of the Business Meeting, 26 people enjoyed a hearty, plentiful meal (One World Room, Anabel Taylor Hall) and a play about John Woolman presented by the First Day School.

The IMM Friendly Service Group sent three boxes of clothing to AFSC. They expect four blankets to be finished by December.

70 Years Ago (Nov 17, 1941)

Young Friends reported that they had made 90 quarts of applesauce for the Civilian Public Service (CPS) camps at Cooperstown. A clinical thermometer and other articles needed by this camp were also donated by IMM. Eleven Meeting members and attenders went to Cooperstown on a recent first day to deliver these goods and to have supper with the CPS group.

[Note: CPS camps provided COs an alternative to military service during World War II. The camp at Cooperstown was run by the AFSC and the NYS Conservation Department's forestry division. At least three IMM attenders, including Louis Edgerton, did alternative service in CPS camps. For a good web article on these camps, Google "Civilian Public Service Camps" and click on the Wikipedia article.]

75 Years Ago (Nov 8, 1936)

A letter was read from Mr. Edwards of Cornell United Religious Work thanking us for our contribution for the previous year and asking if we could increase our contribution for the coming year to \$50 [we were meeting in Barnes Hall at that time]. Friends were asked to make their contributions as soon as possible so that Treasurer Sarah Oliver could make a partial payment soon.

Reference Resources in the Burtt House Library

Traveling? Have space to host Quaker travelers? Check the library at the Burtt House for the *Directory for Traveling Friends*. This updated volume is in a three-ring binder and is now located on the bottom shelf of the PEACE bookcase in the Meditation Room.

Faith and Practice. Many copies of this publication of New York Yearly Meeting are available either to borrow or for purchase. The borrowing ones have a lender's pocket with card inside the cover.

The ones available for purchase have a price label. Please leave a donation in the library donation box. Find these volumes at Third Street Meeting House and at the Burtt House.

It is perhaps less well known that there is a large print edition of *Faith and Practice*. This volume is for borrowing and can be found on the QUAKER BASICS shelf at the Burtt House.

— Wilma Brown,
Meeting Librarian

Progress on Meetinghouse

Work on the meetinghouse continues:

- **Parking lot fence:** A fencing contractor has begun work.
- **Exterior painting:** Our painting contractors have begun exterior carpentry repairs in preparation for painting.
- **Interior painting:** Friends painted the library on a recent work day. Many more rooms remain to be painted. If we want to avoid the costs of securing a painting contractor, we will need more volunteers. (See article on page 1).
- **Second floor flooring:** TSMC worked closely with CALM on selecting the appropriate products and colors for the various spaces. We will have Interface carpet tiles with attached backing (for sound) in the east common area and classrooms (the spaces over the Meeting Room), and sheet marmoleum with an integral sound abatement layer in the west common area and classroom. We anticipate installation beginning any day now!
- **Library bookshelves:** Wendy Wolfe's husband, Wash, has started work on the shelves at his home workshop.
- **Reducing echo in the Meeting Room:** We have ordered and received Tectum panels for installation on the meetingroom ceiling, and are considering hiring professionals to install these heavy panels.

Managing Giving to IMM through Electronic Transfers

Meeting Treasurer Mike Simkin has set up a way for you to make donations to Meeting easily and regularly using electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Meeting's. If you have any question feel free to e-mail or call Mike Simkin at mes13@cornell.edu or 607-387-5174.



Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving

Our Meeting offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are currently writing checks, you may especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our Meeting.

How to get started

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form below and return it to the Treasurer: Mike Simkin, 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

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| Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc. | |
| Your name: | |
| Address: | |
| City, State, Zip: | |
| Email address: | |
| I would like to make the following contribution(s): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | \$ _____ |
| Total | |
| Date of first contribution: ___/___/___ | |
| Frequency of contribution (check one): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1 st and 15 th | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th | |

| | |
|--|---|
| CHECKING / SAVINGS | Complete this section if using your checking or savings account |
| Please debit my (check one): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip | |
| Routing #: | Account #: |
| Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3 | |
| I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. | |
| Authorized signature: _____ Date: / / | |

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, September 11, 2011

2011-10.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Worship with Attention to Business on October 9, 2011. At 12:05 PM, 12 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and noted that Elspeth Rhodin would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk offered a reading from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith & Practice on the essential qualities mediated to each individual by worshipping and living in spiritual community. After some further silent worship, we turned our attention to the day's business.

2011-10.2 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)

Marion DaGrossa read Draft Four of the proposed Building Use Policy, which the committee has compiled from several sources. Questions and concerns were shared and the Friends present agreed to a few changes to the draft as presented. With these changes the Policy was APPROVED. Friends noted that the policy may evolve as we are led by our experience.

As an outgrowth of the discussion, Meeting asked the committee on Ministry and Worship to consider the concerns expressed today about alcohol use within Meeting-owned buildings, particularly in worship space.

Members of the Burt House Committee (BHC) and the Hector Meetinghouse Committee (HMC) expressed interest in having their committees participate in a policy that would be consistent for all buildings owned by IMM. Friends asked that BHC and HMC follow through on using the guidelines presented today to create a Meeting-wide building use policy. @

2011-10.3 Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Sue Ruff reported for the committee. Because of an anonymous donation received earlier this year, the committee has been able to make several donations that did not require IMM approval. For donation of the funds which require Meeting approval, SJC proposed the following: \$200 to Women for Afghan Women, \$50 to the Innocence Project, \$200 to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)-New York, and \$50 to the Guatemalan Friends' Scholarship & Loan Program. All were APPROVED. @

2011-10.4 Ministry and Worship (M&W)

Barbara Ganzel brought a question and an announcement on behalf of the committee. The question was whether Meeting wants to continue offering pancake breakfasts before worship. Barbara shared some observations and Friends offered their thoughts on the experience of the last few weeks and ideas for the future. We acknowledged the beneficial effects on our worship although there have been drawbacks; we do not want to lose sight of the goal of enjoying one another's company and entering the meeting room filled with such nurture. M&W and Hospitality will work together to find means to continue the benefits of gathering socially before Meeting for Worship. Barbara Ganzel and Fell Cadwallader agreed to open the house at 9 AM on First Days for at least tea and coffee until a longer-term plan emerges.

M&W announced that there will be a meeting for Worship on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, at 10:30 at the Third Street Meetinghouse. @

2011-10.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, gave the monthly report, noting that accounting for the expenses of the annual retreat is still incomplete. IMM is still learning how the amounts budgeted for operating expenses at the Third Street Meetinghouse will match our actual outlays. Treasurer is open to sending the monthly financial report electronically to anyone who requests it. @

2011-10.6 Other Concerns

A parent brought the concern that, since childcare provided during business meeting ends at 2:30 PM, it can be awkward if business continues past that time. This concern was referred to the Clerk for consideration while setting the order and content of the agenda.

A member of the Children and the Life of the Meeting Committee (CALM) spoke of the confusion about accessing funds budgeted for furnishings in the First Day School rooms—where the funds are and how to apply for them. This concern was referred to the Clerk. @

At 2:50 PM, 9 Friends settled into worship before adjourning the Meeting. We will gather again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 13, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk



Peace Vigil on Thursday, 5-5:30p. Every Thursday since the bombing began in Iraq, we have stood in vigil at the foot of State Street (one block east of the Commons). Through rain, sleet, snow or scorching sun, we have never faltered. Sometimes our group is reduced to a single person, but always our presence has persisted. Occasionally, a passer-by picks up a sign and stands with us.

We welcome all to join us. Mayers (the newspaper and magazine shop) has been so kind to store our signs during the week. The first person to arrive goes into Mayers to pick up the signs. People are very welcome to bring their own signs as well, and it is fine to join us early or late or even just for a few minutes. It is altogether a very rewarding experience, and we have always been most heartened by the positive public response.

November 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Coffee (and Tea) Hour Sundays, 9:30-10:30a

Ministry & Worship and other volunteers will continue to provide some hospitality in the hour before Meeting for Worship. Please join us for this opportunity to talk with Friends.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, November 13, 12p

Agenda items should get to our clerk, Steve Mohlke, on or before the preceding Wednesday.

Women's Fellowship Friday, November 18, 7p

Join Friends at the Ithaca Bakery for tea and company.

Peace Witness Saturday, November 19, 10:30a

All are welcome at the Burtt House, 227 Willard Way, Ithaca.

Earthcare Committee Sunday, November 20, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join in the meetinghouse library.

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a Friends participating in First Day School gather outside the meeting room. Please be mindful of the sounds.

Thanksgiving Worship Thursday, November 24, 10:30-11:30a

Meeting for Worship at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Brunch Sunday, November 27, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share and stay after worship to enjoy fellowship with Friends.

Friends Bike Clinic Sunday, November 27, 1-3p

Bring your bike to the meetinghouse for help with small repairs. Also short movies and warm beverages. Contact Larry Clarkberg, 277-9364 or larry@knowledgetown.com, for more information.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, December 1, 5p

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

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