

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

January 2013

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk (until January 13th):

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:

Tonia Saxon
607-387-5244 • tonia@iecc.com

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

Burt House:

Violet Goncarov, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way • 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

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others about events in the Ithaca community, broader social causes or other non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email: mlr17@cornell.edu

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Clothe Yourself in Righteousness
with Jon Watts

On Saturday evening, February 2, 2013, Quaker singer-songwriter Jon Watts will present an hour-long program of music, followed by worship and discussion. "Clothe Yourself in Righteousness" is a call to radical authenticity. Are *you* prepared to radically listen and transform your life accordingly?

The "Light" to early Quakers was a spotlight, intense and uncomfortable, that would shine on the dark places inside of ourselves and reveal the things that we are trying to hide. Early Friends believed that we must all stand in this Light, go through the refiner's fire, before we are healed, before we are whole. We must let go of the ways that we are hiding, the things that we are using to shield ourselves. We must become naked.

Jon has felt a hunger amongst Friends to explore these questions in earnest, opening our hearts and minds to transformation and a new, vital energy instead of dwelling on the old, dead energy that we have inherited. Jon writes: "When we come together to do the transformational work of radical listening, and when we heed the subsequent call to confront the destructive forces in which we live, we can be vital. We can be relevant. *We can be revived.*"

"The ideas that Jon and Maggie are pushing have the potential to call the church (and not just Quakers!) back to its identity as a loving, genuine, transformative community that can effect real change in relationships and in the world."

— Sarah Howell, *Duke Divinity*

"While *Clothe Yourself in Righteousness* basks in the tender love of God, it is also unflinching in its call to risky relationship with both God and our fellow humans."

— Micah Bales, *The Lamb's War*

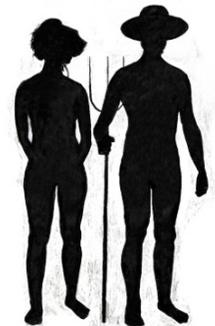
"Prophetic and radical."

— Stephen Angell, *Earlham School of Religion*

"I was charmed, amused, and stirred deeply. Jon offered up a river of positive energy that flowed into and was shared by all of us. Oh, and this is not just for younger folk... lest the hip hop nomenclature confuse or alarm some of our older members. A true poet/troubadour speaks to what binds us together..."

— Susan Britton Seyler, *Downingtown Friends Meeting*

Childcare will be made available upon request for this event, however children of all ages are more than welcome to attend. Contact Lynn Truame (thetruames@gmail.com or 319-0474) if you have questions or need more information. So that we have an approximate headcount for refreshments, please let Lynn know if you plan to attend.



New GRiST Groups Forming

Are you interested in meeting regularly with a small group of people to share what is happening (or not happening) for you spiritually? GRiST (Growing In the Spirit Together) may be for you.

We are organizing another round of groups of 3-5 people to meet and share. Most of the people who have participated in previous rounds found it to be a very rewarding experience. Unlike previous rounds, we will be asking people to sign up for a particular group based on a specified day and time that group will meet. A registration form may be found online at: <http://tinyurl.com/b82hg9k>. Please register by the end of the third week in January.

The groups will begin meeting in February and will meet through May. Attendance should be taken seriously; if possible, notice should be given if a meeting has to be missed.

The underlying questions for each meeting are “What are the spiritual qualities of the everyday events in your life?” and “How has the Spirit been at work in your life since the last time we

met?” Since these questions can be difficult to answer, material has been prepared to help make it easier.

Groups generally start with opening silence and brief check-ins followed by reading the material prepared for that week. Then each person is given up to 10-15 minutes to share their responses to the material. Most groups then share more informally before closing.

The groups can use the prepared material and agenda or adjust to their liking – with one caveat. If left unchecked, groups tend to drift toward ordinary conversation, which is often more comfortable than the kind of spiritual sharing we hope these groups will nurture. To help with this, each group will be assigned a facilitator who will take primary responsibility for helping the group decide on a direction and to stay true to its intent. Care will be taken to avoid the common pitfalls of group dynamics: domination of a group by a single individual, the offering of advice, over-thinking, and so on.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Kenyon (clkenyon09@gmail.com) or Lynn Truame (thetruames@gmail.com or 319-0474).

What is the State of Our Meeting?

Friends, we will gather after meeting for worship on January 20, 2013, to consider the state of our meeting, as requested annually by New York Yearly Meeting. Please see their message to us below.

— *Ministry & Worship*

Dear Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups of New York Yearly Meeting,

As the year draws to a close, each monthly meeting and worship group is asked to describe its spiritual health in a State of the Meeting report. The reports are sent to the Yearly Meeting office and then forwarded to the Ministry Coordinating Committee and the State of Society Committee, which uses them to consider the spiritual health of New York Yearly Meeting as a whole. The result is the State of Society Report, which is presented at Summer Sessions. As self-examination is not an easy task, Ministry Coordinating Committee offers meetings queries to focus their discernment. One or both of the following may be useful in writing this year's reports.

1. How has your meeting deepened and grown in the Light in the past year? What are the particular gifts of your meeting?
2. How has worship been meeting your members' and attenders' spiritual needs?
3. How do Friends' historical testimonies of simplicity, integrity, and equality inform your meeting's response to emerging economic, ecological, and political crises in our time? Are new practices and testimonies emerging?

Winter Gathering of the Regional Meeting ...

The winter gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will be hosted by Rochester Monthly Meeting, Saturday, January 19th, 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The morning session will be focused on planning for our 2013 Spring Gathering which will feature Philip Gulley as the plenary speaker. Our afternoon meeting for worship with a concern for business is scheduled to begin at 1:00pm with the hope that our discernment will be complete by 4:00pm.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Ray.

... Teens Too!

Teens are invited to attend Winter Gathering in Rochester. The Young Adult Committee will be going ice skating (weather permitting) at a park near the meeting house, then adjourning to a nearby cafe to talk about what teens in the region would like to see from the Quaker community and what they have to offer.

With questions or to RSVP, email Justin Murphy at jdmurphy315@yahoo.com (or Donna Beckwith, dmbeckwith@yahoo.com, or Abe Kenmore, papfa@roadrunner.com, if more convenient).

Welcome Anna Beulah!



Anna Beulah Hagadorn was born January 3, 2013, measuring in at a healthy 9 lbs, 2 oz, and 19 inches. Everyone is doing well. Congratulations to Jeannine, Josh and Anna's big brother Riley!

Directory Updates

Baby Hagadorn (above) is but one of the recent revisions to the Ithaca Meeting directory. There have been many changes this year, and we hope to come out with an updated version in 2013. Take the opportunity now to pencil in these revisions.

If you know of other updates that we should include (corrections or additions), please get them to Bronwyn Mohlke, BJQMohlke@gmail.com, 277-4183, or 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Thank you!

Additions

Stephanie Burgess / (607) 227-7526 / pleasantpeak@yahoo.com

Kathleen Gale / 316 McGraw House, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (607) 319-4930 / kgale@twcny.rr.com

Wallace Watson / 87 Uptown Road, Apt. A-108, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (412) 580-6370 / wallwat7@gmail.com

Corrections

Jeannine Hagadorn's address is crousej1@gmail.com. (Also, Jeannine's family now includes Anna Beulah.)

Heather Ruff / 1019 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

IMM Hosting Statewide Gathering for Discernment on Gas Drilling on January 26th

Friends from across New York State will be gathering in Ithaca the weekend of January 26th to worshipfully consider ways to address our concerns regarding gas drilling and related issues. The gathering is organized by NYYM's Earthcare Working Group with the support of IMM Earthcare Committee.

All members and attenders of Quaker meetings are welcome to join us at the Third Street Meetinghouse from about 10 in the morning until 4:30 or 5 (times approximate until we know more about visiting Friends' travel arrangements). We are especially inviting people with ties to Pennsylvania to join us.

You are also invited to share ideas prior to the workshop concerning what should be on our agenda. A tentative list of concerns and topics will be available via the IMM listserv and on the IMM Earthcare Committee page at least two weeks before the event. If you would like to participate but will be unable join us January 26, we welcome letters of concern that will be considered during our gathering.

The main session will be on Saturday, January 26, but some people will arrive the night before, and some may stay over Saturday night, depending on transportation options and on the weather. If weather is predicted to be severe, we have February 9 as a snow date.

Friday evening there will be worship and a final planning session for those already in Ithaca.

Volunteers are needed to help with food, housing, and transport (meeting people at the bus station, etc).

Please let Margaret McCasland know if you are planning to attend and/or ways you can help with logistics. 216-1091; margaret@mc-caslands.com

Community Email: Listserv and Marilyn's List

Friends are reminded that we have multiple ways to communicate via email. First, we have an IMM listserv. This listserv is to be used for announcements directly related to IMM or broader Quaker bodies *only*. Directions for subscribing to this fairly low traffic listerv are on page 1, in the left panel.

Marilyn Ray also maintains a less formal mailing list where she distributes items of broad interest. Marilyn is happy to forward messages related to social and political causes as well as events that are open and of interest to the broader Ithaca community. To participate in Marilyn's list, please contact her at mlr17@cornell.edu.

— *Marin Clarkberg*

January in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

10 Years Ago (January 12, 2003)

Meeting approved Ollie O for membership with the understanding that he will reaffirm his membership when he turns 18. Nathan Mallison was approved for membership.

20 Years Ago (January 11, 1993)

Ministry and Oversight raised the concern that the traditional Friends resource of clearness committees for personal support had seldom been used. M&O will attempt to reintroduce this possibility to Meeting. An M&O member need not be on such a clearness committee. Friends with possible needs for such a committee were invited to speak to any M&O [now M&W] member or to any seasoned Friend.

60 Years Ago (January 10, 1953)

A letter of thanks was received from the House for Hiroshima organization, accompanied by a wooden Christmas greeting card of Hinoke cypress, made by Japanese children of Eba Village. Ten new living units had been built in the village from all contributions received.

65 Years Ago (January 13, 1948)

The primary concern of this Meeting for Business was the threat of peacetime conscription. The Peace Committee decided to take appropriate actions to oppose conscription through the press, radio, and working with all types of organizations in Tompkins County. It will investigate the creation of a local organization through which all groups opposed to conscription can pool their efforts.

70 Years Ago (January 11, 1943)

Sarah Oliver read a letter from IMM member Walter Balderston, who with his wife Marydel represented the AFSC at one of the camps for the Japanese [very probably one of the camps in various parts of the U.S. where people and families of Japanese ancestry living in America had been forcibly sent]. Walter's letter also expressed appreciation for his membership with IMM (he had recently transferred membership from Middletown Monthly Meeting, PA).

IMM member Francis Dart reported that the gift of fruit for Christmas dinner had been much appreciated by the Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp at Big Flats. Sewing/mending workers in the Meeting had taken on a project of mending socks for CPS members but this did not turn out well because of the time required to mend the socks before they were needed. Meeting decided to spend the rest of the funds designated for this camp project to purchase new socks for these men.

Advices from The Epistle from the Elders at Balby, 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.

Advice 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: and that all who are indebted to the world, endeavour to discharge the same, that nothing they may owe to any man but love one to another.

Advice 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.

Advice 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, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, amongst whom they may shine as lights in the world.

Advice 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.

Advice 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.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 9, 2012

Clerk: Steve Mohlke

Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel, Marilyn Ray, and Susan Ruff

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

2012 12.01 Opening

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on December 9, 2012. At 12:15 PM, fifteen Friends gathered in open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda, and extended our gratitude to Carolyn Kenyon, for holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read from an essay on Meeting for Business from Lloyd Lee Wilson's *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*.

"Friends corporate decision-making process, as used in meeting for business and elsewhere, is based on the belief that there is a Gospel Order, and that it can be discerned by human beings who seek it out. Friends' belief and experience is that all persons will perceive Gospel Order in a given situation when all seek for it, and that the corporate body can come into unity with the Holy Spirit in any decision. The result is a shift from the relative democracy of many Protestant denominations to a true theocracy - the rule of God without intermediaries."

2012 12.02 Continuing Quaker Education

What are we saying when we say "approve?" Though it sounds like "I approve", it is not about asking the opinion of each of us approving an item. By the time we get to the point of asking whether we approve of a particular matter, our own opinion (the "I" in "I approve") fades and gives way to the broader sense of "we." By saying "approve" we are recognizing our shared sense of the matter as gospel order.

2012 12.03 Finance and Treasurer's Reports

- a. Will White, Clerk of Finance, distributed and reviewed the proposed budget for 2013 which recommended a total Operating Budget of \$75,122, with an aim of \$55,922 income from donations. Will reviewed pages 2 and 3 of the Treasurer's report, which displays the proposed budget in detail, and distributed and reviewed the report of the history of budgets and donations for the last ten years. Friends APPROVED the proposed Budget. @
- b. Mike Simkin, treasurer, reviewed the treasurer's report for November. He noted that as of the end of November Meeting had received donations amounting to 66% of the budget for the year.
Friends RECEIVED the report. @

c. Friends APPROVED the following minute:

The Meeting charged the Finance Committee to coordinate with the Clerks to undertake one or more forums for Meeting to consider proposed projects for finishing the TSMH and Meeting priorities and Meeting finances. @

2012 12.4 Peace Witness Committee

For Peace Witness Committee, Clerk presented the proposed gifts of \$100 to each of the following organizations: (a) Friends International Center in Ramallah; (b) Friends Peace Teams; (c) Great Lakes Initiative in Africa/Friends Peace House/Quaker Evangelical Church, Friends Peace Teams; (d) The Indonesia Initiative, Friends Peace Teams; (e) Nonviolent Peaceforce; (f) ProNica; (g) Ramallah Friends School, Global Ministries, Friends United Meeting; (h) Peter De Mott Catholic Worker House ; (i) Veterans' Sanctuary; and (j) Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). APPROVED @

2012 12.5 Ministry and Worship

Antonia Saxon, Assistance Clerk, reported that a clearness committee met with Tony Gaenslen about his request to transfer his membership to Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting and Ministry and Worship recommended approval of the request. APPROVED @

2012 12.6 Nominating Committee

Tom Brown presented, and Friends APPROVED, the proposed nominations for Committee Assignments for 2013. @

2012 12.7 Naming Committee

Antonia Saxon reported for the Naming Committee that it recommended Ellie Rosenberg for appointment to the Nominating Committee. APPROVED @

2012 12.8 Other Concerns

CALM is recognizing a shortage of energy for the children's program. Among the concerns raised were: inconsistent and dwindling attendance at First Day School; difficulty finding teachers; and difficulty finding adults to supervise other children's events. @

Fourteen Friends settled into open worship at 2:45 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Annual Meeting to be held at the rise of Meeting on January 13, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn L. Ray, Recording Clerk

January 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, January 6, 9:45a

Join us upstairs every first Sunday of the month for a gentle yoga class led by Nick Boyar. Gentle stretching, relaxation, and breathing exercises. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Annual Meeting of the Corporation Sunday, January 13, Rise of Meeting

The Meeting's trustees invite everyone to join us at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated. It is important that we have a good attendance at this meeting, so the Trustees urge you to attend if possible. We will pass around a sign-up sheet to record the attendance of everyone present at the annual meeting of the Corporation.

The annual meeting of the Corporation, which is brief and required by law, is followed by our regular Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting provides a great opportunity to hear about all the progress made by the various committees of our Meeting over the past year. We hope to see you there.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, January 13, following Annual Meeting

Directly following the meeting of the corporation, this is our annual meeting in which we share committee reports from 2011.

Quakers Studying the Bible Sunday, January 20, 9a

Bible study is held each third Sunday at the Meeting House. The format includes analysis, commentary, and critical discussion of a selected passage one month, followed by personal and experiential reflection on the same passage the next month.

What is the State of Our Meeting? Sunday, January 20, Rise of Meeting

We will consider the state of our meeting, as requested annually by New York Yearly Meeting. Please see the queries to consider on page 2.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, January 24, 5p

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

Discernment on Gas Drilling Saturday, January 26, 10a

Statewide gathering at the Third Street Meetinghouse. See article on page whatever. 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM (exact times to be determined).

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, February 3, 9:45a

Join us upstairs every first Sunday of the month for a gentle yoga class led by Nick Boyar. Gentle stretching, relaxation, and breathing exercises. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Meeting with [some] Attention to Football: the Dunhams' Annual Superbowl Party Sunday, February 3, 6 pm

Join the Dunham's at their home (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca) for a fun time to socialize with F/friends and watch the "Big Game"... or completely *ignore the game* and just socialize. Pizza will be provided. Please bring other finger food or drinks to share. An RSVP by Jan 31 is helpful but not strictly required. Call 277-9599 or email Mtravis823@yahoo.com or C_J_dunham@yahoo.com.

Every Sunday

- 9:45a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**-aged Friends exit the meetingroom. *Note: there is no formal First Day School programming in the summer.* Please be mindful of footfalls while upstairs, and consider removing your shoes.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House (227 N. Willard Way)
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts