

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

June 2013

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

Assistant Clerk:

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778
mlr17@cornell.edu

Treasurer:

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

Ministry & Worship:

Barbara Ganzel
607-275-9512 • blg4@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849
ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Megan Mills-Novoa, Friend-in-Residence
megnovoa@gmail.com • 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 message body 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

Peace Witness



Elspeth Rhodin at the Peace Vigil a recent Thursday afternoon.

Elspeth Rhodin vigils at the bottom of State Street hill on Thursdays. She gathers up to two hundred responses from passing traffic.

Holding up a sign, different from week to week, her message prevails.

“Peace — listening to understand”

“Peace — Do you know it in your life?”

“Peace — a selfless compassion”

“Peace is love”

Keep your eye out for Elspeth. She stands in a bed of tulips during rush hour.

— Ann Rhodin

Recollections and Outcomes of a Discernment Process

— Rebekah Tanner

This week has been simply amazing, and when I consider its events I find myself thinking back to three years ago, when I asked the Ithaca Monthly Meeting to assist me through the process of a Discernment Committee. In June and again in October 2010, I met with a small group of well-selected Friends to explore the idea of getting additional education, as the direction of my life had been in a state of flux for about three years.

Discernment, continued on page 2

Discernment, continued from page 1

Over the summer of 2010 I spent time in prayer, doing research on my options, and making applications. As an outcome of the Discernment Process I determined, with the aid of my Committee, that the dual-degree program at Onondaga Community College was the next step for me. My studies have concentrated on Ceramics and the Social Sciences with a Minor in Native American Studies, a course of study that I expected would take six semesters to complete. This week I arrived at the end of the fifth semester and am right on track.

I have performed remarkably well at OCC and found both a lively educational environment and a place where I have become part of a community—something else I was desperately in need of in 2010. I have also been employed on campus since I arrived in January 2011 as a Tutor, on the Executive Committee of the Student Association and most recently, in the Social Sciences Department working with Clubs and doing research. This summer I will be working closely with professors in the Social Sciences Department, doing research to assist the Department in expanding their offerings in the Native American Studies Minor, helping to build curriculum for a course in Native American Philosophy.

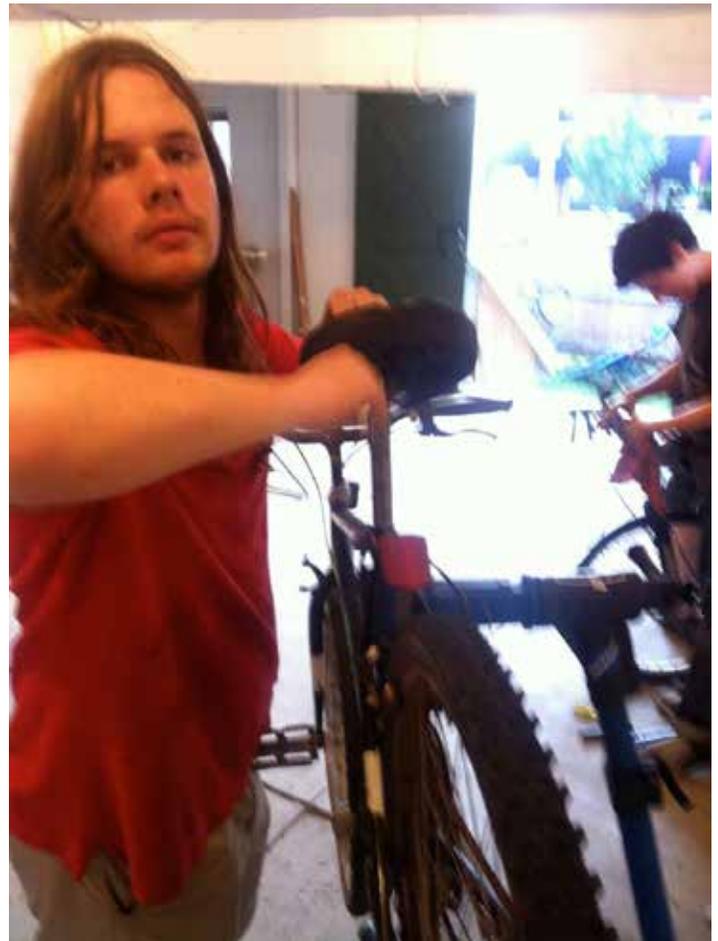
So what of this week? The week after exams and before the summer gets underway—became for me a time for pausing to be recognized. At the final Faculty Meeting of each year a number of student awards and prizes are traditionally given to students at OCC. I was called to the stage twice! First, was to receive First Prize in the Creative Writing Category of the Annual Women's History Month Competition for my essay "Girl Standing in the Trees" in which I explored the Wyandotte story of origin "Sky World Woman," which was told to me as a child, in comparison to the version recounted by Barbara Alice Mann in her book *Land of the Three Miamis: A Traditional Narrative of the Iroquois in Ohio* for my Honors Contemporary American Literature course this past autumn. Then, again, as the recipient of one of four Faculty Endowed Scholarships for Academic Excellence. And if all that were not enough, when I got home and checked my e-mail, I found a message telling me that my beaded belt, one of the three pieces of art I had placed in the OCC "On My Own Time" exhibit, has been selected to go on to the the Central NY "On My Own Time." That exhibition will be displayed at the Everson Museum in October 2013—and that it has additionally been chosen to be photographed for use in the event publication.

This being just such a week—one to pause and reflect—I thought it was time, at long last, to write a few words about what I have been busy with during my season of absence from worship at the Ithaca Monthly Meeting, and to thank the Meeting for its support of me through the Discernment Process and in being the place I consider to be my spiritual home.



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Maman Wednat Belt on display at OCC.



Dylan hard at work on a bicycle as a part of our Out of the Nest program.

Out of the Nest Odyssey

I recently wrapped up my Out of the Nest program with Dylan Beissner Kaiser. It has been an almost two-year odyssey and by the end of it I feel what is sure to be a life-long friendship with Dylan. We began the program in 2011, meeting regularly six times at the café in the Autumn Leaves bookstore. We reviewed sections of Faith and Practice together, often straying from the topics of the book to our own philosophical outlooks on life.

For the next part of the Out of the Nest program we sought a service project. We had hoped to join the Habitat for Humanity group in Albany but in the end an opportunity arose to do a worthy project in Ithaca at RIBs (Recycle Ithaca's Bikes): we helped an LACS student build several bikes that he gave away. It was satisfying work.

For the last part of the program I joined a clearness committee for Dylan convened to help him determine his relationship to Quakerism. We explored deep topics. Whether or not Dylan becomes an official IMM member, he will always be a beloved part of our community and I am glad I was able to be a part of his journey.

— *Laurence Clarkberg*

Cultivating Quakers: Sowing the Seeds and Seeing what Sprouts

On the morning of April 13, 2013, twenty-five Friends gathered at the meetinghouse to participate in the workshop *Cultivating Quakers: Discerning our Meeting's Responsibility to our Children*. This workshop was organized by the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee with assistance from the Programming committee and was facilitated by Powell House programming directors Mike Clark and Chris DeRoller.

Our time together oscillated between games and silliness and discussion and worship sharing, all centered around the needs of young people and families in our meeting and how those needs can best be served. We listed what IMM does well for its youngest meeting members, what we felt was lacking, what an ideal family-friendly meeting would look like, what bolstered us as children, what energies and talents we have available for youth-directed activities, and what lessons we wanted our children to learn.

This mix of fun and fruitfulness resulted in some diverse memorable moments, some of which I'd like to share with those of you who were not able to join us. They were:

- Seeing meeting members construct a teepee in the meetingroom and tape their noses to their foreheads in a demonstration of how Meeting for Worship might look if it were designed by preschoolers.
- A worship sharing session working to find clarity regarding our own spiritual experiences in order to better facilitate our sharing them with others, especially children.
- The creative evolution of a single red bowl from a food vessel to a knee pad to a cyclops' contact lens!
- Sharing what IMM already does well regarding its young people. Some items from this list were providing childcare, Out of the Nest, the "soft spot" in the meetingroom, intergenerational events, and having created a space where children feel truly loved.

- Garnering an inside view of what each of us would look like if we lost all our teeth while playing the popular Powell House game "Mrs. Mumbly."
- Trying to put a name on some of the hindrances IMM has to working with children such as inconsistent attendance, differing feelings about using spiritual vocabulary or religious texts, finding enough First Day School (FDS) teachers or other adults willing to lead the children in a project or activity, and the infrequent participation in intergenerational functions of those in meeting without young children of their own.

If there's one thing we left this workshop with, it's *lists!* If you are interested in learning more about the specifics of our discussions at the workshop, please email someone from CALM for a transcript of the various lists created during the workshop. In addition to our lists, many of us left the workshop with a better assessment of what kinds of tools IMM has in its Quaker toolbox and CALM, as well as interested community members, has already begun to sift through all this information to answer the question "What now?" Expect more on that question in the coming weeks.

Let's close with the top 5 items off my favorite list from the workshop and one through which many seemed to find inspiration.

What do I want youth to take away from their experience at IMM?

1. A feeling of connectedness to the divine around and within.
2. To feel like they belong to a loving community.
3. An understanding of and experience with what it means to be a Quaker.
4. How to find answers and make decisions within themselves.
5. The ability to be deeply aware in the moment and listen to themselves, others and God.

— Gina Varrichio, on behalf of CALM
(Ellie Rosenberg, Fred Horan, Blair Jennings, Heather Ruff)

Made of earth

Dried by air

Cooked in fire

Filled with water

An elemental bowl

— Thea Clarkberg

Summer Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse

We will continue the practice of last year of having Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse on all First Days in July and August, with the option of continuing through September. To facilitate Friends' participation in Meeting for Worship with Attention for Business and fellowship at the Third Street Meetinghouse, we are tentatively scheduling Hector Meeting for Worship for 10:00.

M&W is open to further comments about the proposed time.

How to foster a (faith) community

1. Be present; show up.
2. Listen to others share their experience of truth.
3. Share your experience of truth.
4. Care deeply about each individual *and* the group...
5. ...and navigate the inherent tension in this.

— from an exercise at the
Cultivating Quakers workshop

June in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (June 8, 2008)

Upon recommendation from Trustees, IMM approved an ad hoc committee to review and recommend updated policies for the Hector Meetinghouse cemetery. [The report of this committee was approved by IMM on April 11, 2010.]

10 Years Ago (June 8, 2003)

Names proposed by the Nominating Committee for the new Peace Witness and Social Justice Committees were approved and the prior Peace and Social Action Committee, which was a combination of the two new committees, was laid down.

15 Years Ago (June 8, 1998)

IMM approved the Clearness Committee's recommendation that Tony Serviente and Barbara Ganzel be married under the care of the Meeting and an Oversight Committee for their marriage was appointed. An August 1 date was set for their marriage.

20 Years Ago (June 13, 1993)

Trustees reported on a meeting with architects Charles Pearman and Henry Richardson concerning planning work they were doing and an engineering study, which was not yet finalized, for the possible addition of a meeting room to the Burtt House. [Note: While the meeting room was never constructed, this minute is included here to acknowledge Charles Pearman's long association with IMM.]

Ellie Rosenberg, a member of Swarthmore Meeting, was accepted as a sojourning member of IMM.

25 Years Ago (June 13, 1988)

Ron Ozer reported for the Sanctuary Committee that Juan, a Salvadorian refugee under care of IMM and the Ithaca area Sanctuary Committee, was in Buffalo that day (Monday) for the first hearing on his application for asylum in the U.S.

65 Years Ago (June 14, 1948)

It was urged that Friends write their Congressional representatives in the face of the upcoming vote on selective service.

The Service Committee reported that eight to ten boxes of food and clothing had been sent to Europe since their last report. The next date for packing boxes was set for Second Day the 28th (June) at the home of Committee chairman Jean Scattergood.

— *Tom Brown, Historian*

Friends Bike Clinic

Thanks to a Witness Activities grant from NYYM, the Friends Bike Clinic will be operating every Sunday from 1 to 3pm this summer. Bring your bikes and learn how to keep your wheels in working condition.

— *Laurence Clarkberg*

Supporting the Three-Day Paddle/Walk to Honor the Two-Row Wampum Treaty Renewal

A 3-day Cayuga Lake paddle/walk from Ithaca to Union Springs (north of Aurora) will take place June 5th through 7th. This journey is to honor a 400 year old agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the European settlers to live in friendship since peace. (More information about the event is at honorthetworum.org.)

To support the upcoming paddle/walk, Friends can help in three specific areas. I hope folks from IMM can help with:

1. The paddle/walk needs salad greens for the simple meals they will be serving. Can people please bring salad greens to Meeting on Sunday, June 2nd? After Meeting I will make sure the greens get to the person organizing the food.
2. People who will be paddling or walking starting at Stewart Park will be parking their cars at Neighborhood Pride and will need transportation to Stewart Park on Wednesday, June 5th at am. Are there people who can help with ferrying people from Neighborhood Pride to the Stewart Park? We need to know how many people can help so we can better plan. Please let me know if you can do this.
3. Poplar Ridge urgently needs help with hosting the group on Thursday evening and Friday morning. There will be a simple supper served on Thursday and breakfast on Friday. If you can come and help make soup or another simple dish (more information will be forthcoming) please let me know so I can let Poplar Ridge know. They are looking forward to working with IMM to support this event.

If you have questions, please contact me QuakerWolf@gmail.com, 272-1618.

— *Susan Wolf*

It's a Party!

I invite Friends to join me for a birthday party for Blair (49) and Maisy (11) on Saturday, June 1st, 2013.

Community Arts of Elmira

413 Lake St.

Elmira, NY 14901

6-9 pm

Poet Michael Czarnecki will do his presentation of his travels across the longest road in America, Rte 20 at about 7:15 pm.

We heartily invite our friends from IMM to come and eat cake, experience an Elmira treasure (the building) and hear a wonderful poet.

— *Fell Cadwallader*

Found Cell Phone

I found a cell phone in upstairs classroom several weeks ago. Motorola/Verizon smart phone. If this phone belongs to you, please call me at 272-2512. After another week or so, I will find a new home for it.

— *Gina Varrichio*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 14, 2013

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel, Marin Clarkberg & 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.)

2013 5.01 Opening. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 13, 2013. At 7:10 PM, ten Friends gathered in open worship. The Assistant Clerk reviewed the agenda, and acknowledged Mike Simkin who was holding this Meeting in the Light. Open worship continued.

2013 5.02 Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W). M & W has written a Memorial Minute for John Kimball. Although John was not a member of the Meeting, Friends sometimes write a Memorial Minute for those whose association with the Meeting was long and whose lives have enriched us. Marilyn Ray read the Minute. Friends APPROVED the minute. @

2013 5.03 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin presented the monthly treasurer's report. Friends received the report. @

2013 5.04 Hector Meeting House (HMH) Committee. Antonia Saxon presented the committee's report. We have received a request from Barbara Smith, who hosts a Conservative, unprogrammed Meeting in her home in Lodi. She asked to use the HMH to hold Meeting for Worship once a month, usually on first Sundays, at a time which does not conflict with IMM's use of the building. The HMH committee recommends that any arrangement be on a provisional basis. Friends considered various aspects of the possible arrangement, using our agreement with the Greater Bethlehem Tabernacle as a guide. Friends APPROVED offering

the space to Barbara Smith's group, and request that the HMH committee review the arrangement and report to the monthly meeting after three months. @

2013 5.05 Joint Report from Peace Witness, Social Justice, and Earthcare Witness Committees. Carolyn Kenyon read a proposal for a Meeting House Use Fund, which had grown out of the joint committees' concern for making the Third Street Meetinghouse available at no cost to "groups doing work that implements our Quaker values, such as social justice, peace, earth care, and equality." Friends considered the proposal, citing concerns about the difficulty of sorting which groups would qualify to receive this benefit, and about the implications of the proposed fund being collected from individuals rather than supported by the Meeting's general fund. We agree that there is general support for creating a fund for this purpose and formalizing oversight of it. Friends still seek clarity on the role of such a committee: is it to decide which groups would qualify and by what criteria; or is it simply to allocate the funds as long as there is money available.

The Meeting referred this proposal for further seasoning to an ad hoc committee, consisting of a representative from the joint committees, one from Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, one from Finance, and one from the Scholarship subcommittee of M&W. The representative from the joint committees will convene this Ad Hoc Committee on a Meeting House Use Fund. @

Twelve Friends settled into silent worship at 8:55 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on June 9, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

"There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end.

"Its hope is to outlive all wrath and contention, and to weary out all exaltation and cruelty, or whatever is of a nature contrary to itself. It sees to the end of all temptations. As it bears no evil in itself, so it conceives none in thought to any other. If it be betrayed, it bears it, for its ground and spring is the mercies and forgiveness of God. Its crown is meekness, its life is everlasting love unfeigned; it takes its kingdom with entreaty and not with contention, and keeps it by lowliness of mind. In God alone it can rejoice, though none else regard it, or can own its life. It is conceived in sorrow, and brought forth without any to pity it; nor doth it murmur at grief and oppression. It never rejoiceth but through sufferings; for with the world's joy it is murdered.

"I found it alone, being forsaken. I have fellowship therein with them who lived in dens and desolate places of the earth, who through death obtained this resurrection and eternal holy life."

— From the death bed testimony of James Nayler in 1660

James Nayler was a friend of George Fox and an early Quaker preacher. Although many early Quakers engaged in disruptive demonstrations in a religious context, Nayler probably went too far when he rode into Bristol on a donkey while followers sang "Holy, holy, holy" and strewed the path with garments. Even George Fox considered impersonating Jesus to be inappropriate.

Nayler was pilloried, whipped, and branded with the letter B (for "blaspheme") on his forehead, and had his tongue pierced with a hot iron before being sent to prison at hard labor for two years.

George Fox later forgave him, but Nayler never regained his physical strength after this ordeal. He died from injuries sustained during a robbery two years after his release from prison at age 42.

June 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, June 2, 9:45a

Join us upstairs for gentle yoga led by Nick Boyar. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Meeting House Summer Spruce-Up Day Saturday, June 8 9a-12n

The Third St. Meetinghouse Committee and the Gardening Committee will have a joint "summer spruce-up day." Please bring any of the following: rakes, brooms, pruning tools, newspaper or weed block material, ladders, brooms, and ideas for the disposal of debris! We are also looking for some plants, including Rudbeckia and Echinacea. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Pat Pingel at pingpatr@cs.com or Nancy Hillegas at nhillegas@gmail.com with any questions about the gardening, and Marion DaGrossa at mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com with questions about property maintenance.

Note: we may also convene on Saturday June 15.

Burt House Work Day Saturday, June 8 10a-2 p

The Burt House Committee and Work Group invite F/friends of all ages to join us for a spring work day at the Burt House. It's time to bring the Burt House and yard out of its winter slumber! Tasks will include yard clean-up, planting flowers, taking off storm windows/doors and putting on screen windows, sweeping porches, picking up litter, cleaning up the Meditation Chapel. Some tools and gloves will be provided, but if you have a favorite yard & garden tool or pair of work gloves feel free to bring those along.

New Date: Spiritual Unity: A Discussion Sunday, June 9, 9a

"In the Quaker practice of group worship ... come special times when an electric hush and solemnity and depth of power steals over the worshipers. A blanket of divine covering comes over the room, [dissolving] some part of the special privacy ... of our individual lives."

— Thomas Kelly

Rescheduled from May due to illness: What kind of experience do we hope for when we meet together? What is spiritual unity? How do we experience this as individuals? Come investigate together. Steve Mohlke will share and facilitate discussion.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, June 9, Rise of Meeting

Please provide agenda items to Clerk Antonia Saxon by the preceding Wednesday. See contact info on page 1, left column.

Meeting House Summer Spruce-Up Day, Round 2 Saturday, June 15 9a-12n

See right for more information.

Earthcare Sunday, June 16, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to discuss issues relating to our stewardship of the earth.

Women's Fellowship Friday, June 21, 7p

Friendly fellowship at Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street. Join for coffee, tea, dessert, or just a chance to be with Friends.

Fourth Sunday Brunch Sunday, June 23, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share. This is a wonderful opportunity for Friends folks to get to know others.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, June 26, 5p

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

Note:

There will be no Peace Witness Committee meeting in June.

Every Sunday

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse

10:45a **First Day School**-aged Friends exit the meetingroom. 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