



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

March 2013

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

Tonia 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:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

Burt House:

Megan Mills-Novoa, Friend-in-Residence
227 N. Willard Way • Ithaca NY 14850
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

Cultivating Quakers: Discerning our Meeting's Responsibility to our Children

— Gina Varrichio (on behalf of CALM)

When our family first came to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, we were bowled over by the number of children in the Meeting, what seemed to us a thriving First Day School program and opportunities for intergenerational interactions. We were coming from a Meeting who, though small, was involved in the community and supportive of its members. The First Day School, when it was happening, consisted primarily of a ten-year-old and a teenager in addition to our toddler. But as a Meeting, it was doing what most Meetings are doing these days – aging.

When I look around IMM on any given First Day, there are many adjectives that come to mind – vibrant, quirky, sometimes irreverent, crowded, joyful – but never aging. Our Meeting community touts a membership of infants to elders and even manages to retain its share of twenty-somethings, much as the odds may be stacked against us. But even as we celebrate our own diversity, we are encumbered by the variety of needs all of these divergent groups bring to the table.

Contemporary children aren't a natural fit at Quaker Meeting. They're loud, a little unpredictable, not known for their well of patience or the ability to sit for extended periods of time. And yet, in other ways, they can seem like the life-blood of a meeting by lend-

"Cultivating Quakers", continued on page 2

Friendly Talent Show Looking for Talent

It is that time of the year when Quakers all over Ithaca will be showing their stuff at the annual talent show. We are looking for *all sorts* of talent; from Zumba dancers to recorder virtuosos, and in between. If you've got a passion, please share it with your Friends! Contact Kris Altucher (kris.altucher@gmail.com) or Pat Sewell (p.w.sewell@gmail.com) to get on the list! See the calendar, page 6, for more about the March 16th show.

Friends with Non-Quaker Families

For many of us, the time we spend at Meeting events is time away from partners and children. We are part of families whose other members are not Quaker. What is this like for you? What challenges do you face? What rewards do you find? How might Meeting be more supportive?

We hope you will join us on Sunday, March 24, at 9:00am (see the calendar, page 6) to share experiences, learn from one another, and think about ways the Meeting might make Friends with non-Quaker families feel more welcome.

— Marilyn Ray <mlr17@cornell.edu> and
Carolyn Kenyon <clkenyon09@gmail.com>
for the Program Committee

ing their openness, their inquisitiveness, their innocence, their insight. Our desire to incorporate children into the fabric of IMM is often expressed during Meeting for Worship. I have heard many a member give thanks for the Meeting's youth. And yet, among all this enthusiasm, there remains a disparity.

From the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) 2012 Annual Report:

There appears to be a lack of a groundswell of support for children's programming, and the lack of adult leadership is draining. CALM sees the need for a Meeting-wide discussion of what we want for children's programming. We need to determine what proportion of our collective energy is directed toward this work. It may be that some of the programming attempted by CALM needs to be laid down in the interest of pursuing other directions in which the Meeting is feeling led.

If any single query could best epitomize IMM of 2012-2013, I would suggest it is "What is our ministry?" Discussions of expenditures and finances and building use and many others all seem to point at this underlying theme. CALM has been wrestling, in our own way, with this query as well in the form of "What does our Meeting want for its children?"

Quakers & Aging Resources

The New York Yearly Meeting's ARCH program stands for "Aging Resources Consultation and Help." Bronwyn Mohlke and Rebekah Tanner have been trained as ARCH visitors, and would love to have some more Ithaca Friends join us. There is a training coming up March 8-10 in Syracuse. There is no fee for this weekend event.

ARCH offers older adults and persons with disabilities the information they need to enhance quality of life. This is achieved through full use of Monthly Meeting and community resources. Education and insight is nurtured through workshops, printed material, website resources, ARCH Visitors, and advice from trained consultants. One-on-one listening is available for individuals and families as they deal with the last third of life.

CALM invites you to join us for a Powell House weekend *here at home* to address this and other concerns about supporting our children. Youth Directors Chris DeRoller and Mike Clark of Powell House fame will lend their 12 years of experience working with children and adults in Quaker settings to facilitating a half-day workshop tailored to IMM. This is a true "work"-shop, hands-on experiences with some instruction but lots of roll-your-sleeves-up-and-get-the-job-done (or at least started).

What: Cultivating Quakers Workshop, facilitated by Powell House staff

Who: Adults with children, adults without children, adults who were children, teens, middle-schoolers

When: Saturday, April 13, 9am-12:30pm (followed by a dish-to-pass lunch, 12:30-1:30)

Where: Third Street Meetinghouse

Cost: \$20 per participant (*please contact CALM if \$20 will be a hardship for you and we will cover the cost of your participation.*)

There will be childcare available for this event. Look for registration coming soon!

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

An ARCH Visitor is a Friend in NYYM who has taken the ARCH visitor training program because s/he has a call to visit seniors and adults with disabilities within one hour from home. Visitors provide a listening ear and, hopefully, a connection to appropriate resources to improve the life of the person visited. Visitors maintain a close relationship to their Monthly and Regional Meetings, and stay in touch with the ARCH Coordinators.

For more information about the ARCH program or to find out how to sign up for this training, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke (BJQMohlke@gmail.com / 220-3219)

Request from Social Justice Committee for "Jail Drivers"

For the past 10 years, the Social Justice Committee has been providing a transportation service to residents from Tompkins County who have loved ones in the jail. The jail has visiting hours every Tuesday and Saturday but there is not good access to public transportation, taxis are expensive and people can often not get to the jail. We provide transport for the five appointments during the day hours. The number of volunteers who provide this service rises and falls and right now it is at a low. The requirements are an interest in people, a car and one half day a month. For those of us who have worked in this program for a while it has been an education in the qualities of courage and resourcefulness. It has been a window into a world of struggle. For all of us, it is a blessing that works both ways. If you are interested in being a part of this service please call Barbara Barry at 533-7563 or e-mail fb12@cornell.edu.

Eldering Workshop to be held at Perry City Meeting

Perry City Meeting will be hosting a workshop on the Quaker conception of "Eldering" on March 15 and 16. Mary Kay Glazer will lead the workshop, during which we will explore how eldery is being practiced among Friends today. It will include the model of the Young Friends in Residence (YFIR) program; elders traveling with ministers; and eldery within a monthly meeting.

We will gather Friday evening, March 15, from 7-9:30 and on Saturday, March 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If anyone would like more information, or would like to sign up, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke (BJQMohlke@gmail.com / 220-3219).

Donations

Is it for the Meetinghouse?

Friends are invited to suggest possible contributions of physical items or labor they would like to offer to the meetinghouse. However, all such contributions must be approved by the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. This procedure will insure the nature and goals of the meetinghouse are taken into account in ways that best serve our members and attenders. Contact Marion DaGrossa, mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com.

All suggestions are appreciated.

The Persian Rug in the Third Street Meetinghouse

We hope everyone has noticed the large Persian rug in the upstairs lounge that fills almost the entire room. The rug, of Bibikabad design, has a significant Quaker connection.

Ithaca resident Carol Knight John gave the rug to our Meeting last August in memory of her parents, Charles Wright Knight (1911-1994) and Anne McVaugh Knight (1915-2002). Charles and Anne Knight, who lived in Riverton, New Jersey, were long-time members of the Westfield Friends Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Anne McVaugh Knight is a direct descendant (through eight generations) of Giles Knight, who immigrated to Philadelphia in summer of 1682 on "The Society of Bristol," a ship that was sponsored and financed by William Penn. Their daughter Carol went to George School, a Quaker boarding school in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Decades later, she often attended Meeting for Worship with us in Annabel Taylor Hall while on the faculty at Ithaca College.

The Knights purchased the rug in Isfahan, Iran, in 1972 while visiting Shirin Vakili, an Iranian woman who had lived with the Knights, first while an American Field Service exchange student and later when she returned to the United States to study business in Philadelphia. Charles and Anne had the rug on their living room floor for 30 years until Anne's death in 2002, when it came to Ithaca and was cared for by Carol. Being too large for any room in her house, she approached the Meeting in 2012 to see if we could put it to good use now that we have our own meetinghouse. We are so grateful to Carol and the Knight family for their generosity.

A Guide to Scheduling Events at the Meetinghouse

With increasing use of the TSMH, it is necessary to coordinate the planning and scheduling of all events to be held in the building. This applies to Meeting events (even committee meetings) as well as events organized by outside groups.

If this is a Meeting event, first check the on-line schedule at

<http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

There you will find a listing of events that have already been scheduled. Select a date, time, and room or rooms for the event that you would like to schedule. Room choice will depend on the nature of the event, size and possibly other scheduled events at the meetinghouse. Contact Marion DaGrossa, mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com to discuss the scheduling of the event and other details, including a fee for the use of the building (if it is not a Meeting-sponsored event).

It is necessary to have a representative of Ithaca Monthly Meeting as a "sponsor" at your event. This may be someone attending the event or someone hired for that purpose. The person would be responsible

for opening and closing the meetinghouse and overseeing its use. Marion can suggest people for you to contact.

The detailed information we need to enter into the calendar includes:

- Name of the event
- Sponsor of the event
- Time of the event
- Description of event
- Person to contact for more information, including phone number
- If available, an internet link for more information.
- Charge for the event
- Expected attendance, space required, and special requirements, for example, whether the kitchen will be used, are there childcare needs, etc.

For private events, this information, while necessary prior to scheduling, need not be listed in the calendar.

It is our expectation that all groups will leave the building, including the kitchen, in the condition they find it or better! Thanks.

Notes from the Library

Bookshelves have arrived! Many thanks and compliments to the cabinetmaker! They are such beautiful shelves!

Shortly, books will be arriving. Already one shelf houses a modest collection of Bibles. Next in the plans are collections under the labels of *Quaker Basics*, *The Gathered Meeting*, and *Earthcare*.

Books will have library pockets and check-out cards. When borrowing a book, please sign the card and drop it into the check-out box on the shelf. To return the book, simply put it into the return basket.

Some books and pamphlets have a price tag attached and are available for sale. Please use the donation can on the shelf.

— Wilma Brown, Librarian

March in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

5 Years Ago (March 9, 2008)

Acting on a recommendation from the Social Justice Committee, IMM approved the formation of an open, ad hoc Earthcare Witness Committee to facilitate the consideration of the Eco-Spirituality & Action Minute from NYYM, and to prepare a charge for a standing IMM Earthcare Witness Committee.

10 Years Ago (March 9, 2003)

IMM approved proceeding with incorporation of the Meeting under the Religious Corporation statutes of New York State. IMM defined membership in the forthcoming corporation as those recorded members and attenders who had attended Meeting for Worship or Meeting for Business with some regularity during the past year. A notice was mailed out of a called meeting on April 27, 2003, when approval for incorporation would be sought as well as approval of a set of bylaws and authorization of the Trustees as the legal governing body of the corporation.

15 Years Ago (March 9, 1998)

Upon recommendation of their clearness committee, the marriage of Erika Sturgeon and Todd Drezner under the care of the Meeting was approved and a marriage oversight committee was formed.

Tony Serviente and Lee-Ellen Marvin were approved and welcomed into membership of IMM.

IMM Trustee's Report: Expenditure Guidelines for Property Committees (see Minutes, page 5)

The statements that follow are an effort to clarify ambiguity about what expenses our property committees should approve on their own and what expenses they should seek input from others. The purpose is to affirm that we participate in a community together and our community functions best when policies are clear. The Meeting is not well served if committees seek approval from the wider Meeting for every action nor is the Meeting well served if committees make large-impact decisions on their own. The following guidelines are intended to help committees decide when to seek a broader community involvement on a matter.

1. **All contracts must be signed by the Clerk, Secretary, or Treasurer of Trustees.** Trustees invite Property Committees to consult it, the Finance Committee and/or the Treasurer during the preparation period.
2. **No capital expenditures may be approved by a committee.** Capital expenditures include new structures, additions to existing structures, and large, permanent installations. Large capital expenditures require discussion with Finance, Trustees, and probably multiple threshing sessions with the whole meeting before being brought to Business Meeting.
3. **Repairs to existing structures.** When no signature is required and the expenditure is for a repair to an existing structure and The cost of the repair is less than \$3,000 and

20 Years Ago (March 8, 1993)

Dick Crepeau was welcomed into membership of IMM.

Upon request from the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission, IMM prepared and sent a letter to the NYS Senate supporting a comprehensive civil rights bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Such a bill had just passed the Assembly.

30 Years Ago (March 14, 1983)

David Ruff indicated he planned to begin construction on a new pavilion for Hector Meeting House this month and would be seeking volunteers to help.

35 Years Ago (March 13, 1978)

The Friends of Chili thanked IMM for recent assistance and requested our help for another family who has arrived in the community. Meeting agreed to send the Friends of Chili \$300 to help meet this need.

80 Years Ago (March 27, 1938)

The first monthly business meeting of the Ithaca Association of Friends was held at 8 PM in the library of Barnes Hall.

85 Years Ago (March 4, 1928)

Rufus Jones was in Ithaca as the Sage Hall minister and met with Ithaca Friends March 3 and 4.

the committee has sufficient funds in its operating and maintenance budget line or in its major repair line, the committee may make the expenditure.

If the cost exceeds \$3,000, consult Trustees. Trustees will consult with Finance/ Treasurer to determine if the needed funds are available. If the expenditure has little impact on the meeting community as a whole, Trustees may approve the request. If the expenditure has impact on the meeting community as a whole, Trustees will recommend bringing the expenditure to Monthly Meeting.

4. **Expenditures for purchasing something new.** If the expenditure is for something new (e.g. the Burt House dishwasher), the cost is less than \$3,000, and the Committee has sufficient funds in its Operations and Maintenance budget line, the Committee can make the purchase. If the expenditure will exceed or exhaust the Committee's Operations and Maintenance budget line, Trustees must approve the expenditure.
5. **Expenditures to be covered by soliciting donations from Meeting.** If the Committee determines that the expenditure can be covered by solicitations, the matter must go to Trustees, who will likely recommend bringing the request to Monthly Meeting.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, February 10, 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 2.01 Opening. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on February 10, 2013. At 12:15 PM, sixteen Friends gathered in open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda, and extended our gratitude to Nancy Hillegas for holding this Meeting in the Light. Clerk read from Listening Spirituality, v. II, by Patricia Loring, which says that the spiritual life is a commitment to life as it is, lived in community and open to the potentiality of the Spirit for creative solutions. Silent worship continued.

2013 2.02 Consent Agenda. Friends sometimes use the practice of a "Consent Agenda" to expedite matters of business seasoned and prepared by committees, and which are likely to be received by the Meeting without need for discussion or approval. Such matters frequently involve well agreed-upon procedures. If the need for discussion does arise, those matters move from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

A. Ministry and Worship brought three items.

1. The requested transfer of membership for Wallace Watson from Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting to Ithaca Monthly Meeting has been completed. We warmly welcome Wallace into membership.
2. Pi Serviente's parents request membership for him in IMM. We warmly welcome Pi into membership.
3. Sara Edgerton requests that we remove her name from our membership. It is with both regret and our best wishes that we acknowledge Sara's membership in a new spiritual community in Missouri.

B. Social Justice Committee reports that they have agreed to spend \$100 of their discretionary funds to support the costs of the February 15-17 Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) community workshop in Ithaca.

C. Treasurer: in giving the monthly financial report, Mike Simkin, Treasurer, especially noted that the Meeting has completed paying off all loans for the meetinghouse; we are debt-free.

Friends received the Consent Agenda. @

Regular Agenda

2013 2.03 Ministry and Worship (M&W). Chuck Mohler reported that the Committee for Clearness for Karen Friedeborn's membership had completed its work. Upon M&W's recommendation, Meeting APPROVED Karen's membership with a warm welcome. @

2013 2.04 Ad Hoc Piano Committee. Clerk read the background section on this item from the printed agenda. Melody Johnson read the Ad Hoc Committee's report. As charged at the October Meeting for Business, the committee researched the questions

which had arisen, and reported their findings. Friends offered comments and further questions. We experienced the presence of strong, while conflicting, leadings. We found there was not unity among us. We laid over the matter for further clarification and reflection, and centered the Meeting in silent worship. @

2013 2.05 Trustees. Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees, read the proposed Expenditure Guidelines for Property Committees. The three IMM property committees are: Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, Hector Meetinghouse Committee, and Burr House Committee. Trustees have labored to provide clear guidelines, below, to help the property committees know when to seek broader community involvement on expenditure decisions.

[See Expenditure Guidelines on page 4]

The guidelines were APPROVED. @

2013 2.07 Nominating Committee. Tom Brown, Clerk of the committee, brought two items. He presented and Friends APPROVED the proposed nomination of Kathleen Gale to serve on the Peace Witness Committee Assignments. Then Tom reviewed the history of the evolution of the Hospitality Committee since Meeting relocated from Anabel Taylor Hall to the new meetinghouse. Last year Nominating Committee named a Task Group to create a new Charge for the Hospitality Committees. Nominating Committee recommended approval of their report:

[Report available from the recording clerk]

Friends APPROVED the Charge. @

2013 2.08 Other Concerns

A. Program Committee notes the difficulty of managing the physical arrangements for the smooth execution of large Meeting events, beyond the planning and coordination of the content of the event itself. Friends suggested establishing a list of volunteers willing to be called in for these tasks.

B. A Friend requested that there be an easily accessed roster of committee members to help those who wish to contact a committee.

C. Third Street Meetinghouse Committee reiterated Meeting's policy that anyone who wishes to donate items to the meetinghouse must clear the donation with TSMC.

D. A Friend requested that there be a list of those willing to offer overnight hospitality when numerous out-of-town guests are expected for large events.

E. A Friend expressed concern that many events held upstairs at the meetinghouse are not listed on the Meeting calendar, creating unanticipated overlaps and conflicts. All Friends and committees are advised to contact Marion DaGrossa to make sure that any meeting or activity they plan for the meetinghouse can be accommodated without conflict. @

Eighteen Friends settled into worship at 2:15 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on March 10, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerk

March 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Singing Before Meeting Sunday, March 3, 9:45a

Back by popular demand! As those of you who attended in December can confirm, this was a delightful experience. We will meet upstairs and use the IMM copies of Rise Up Singing as well as the Quaker hymnal (and any other songs you bring to share). Feel free to come early or straggle in late, but keep in mind we will try to wind down by 10:20 so there is plenty of time to transition into meeting for worship.

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, March 10, 9:45a

Please note the date change: This class is generally on first Sundays, but will be on the second Sunday this month. Join us upstairs for gentle yoga led by Nick Boyar. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, March 10, Rise of Meeting

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

Women's Fellowship Friday, March 15, 7p

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

Quakerism's Got Talent: Annual Talent Show Saturday, March 16, 5p

You don't know talent until you know *Quaker* talent. Join us at the Meetinghouse for a show to remember. Demonstrate your talents at cooking for the 5pm dish-to-pass. The stage show starts at 6. Contact Kris Altucher or Pat Sewell (see page 1) for information... and to get on the program!

Singing Before Meeting Sunday, March 17, 9:45a

See entry for March 3rd, left.

Earthcare Committee Sunday, March 17, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us in the library to discuss our Quaker testimony of stewardship in relation to the earth's resources.

Peace Witness Saturday, March 23, Noon

Meeting at the Burtt House (227 N Willard Way), this is an open committee and all are welcome. An ongoing Committee activity is the Weekly Peace Vigil, which is marking its 10th anniversary this month; the Vigil began in March 2003 when the war in Iraq started. Other recent Committee activities include cosponsorship with the Ithaca Catholic Workers of a presentation by the Veterans' Sanctuary, and two Alternatives to Violence Workshops presented in the Ithaca community. If you would like to be a part of these activities or wish to explore other peace-related projects, please come to the Committee meeting.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, March 28, 5p

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

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. 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 Burtt 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