



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2013

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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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 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

Reflection on Our Meetinghouse Use and Life of the Meeting

On the day we moved into our new meetinghouse, I wrote these words:

Now that we have moved into our new meetinghouse, the time has come to look again at what we hope will come with the move. It is easy to see how the new meetinghouse will allow our children to thrive and have a place to call their own.... It is easy to see how the new meetinghouse will afford us many more opportunities to share food and fellowship. We more than doubled in numbers from meetings of the recent past, with many Friends rejoining us today and sharing food together afterwards. There will be ample opportunities for communion and a deepening of our relationships with each other.

It is less clear how our new home will help us become "more visible and active in the community".... We now have a place that lends legitimacy and permanence to Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Without a lot of changes to our daily lives, we can share this space with others. If we offer the space to others who are doing the work that uphold our Quaker values, such as organizations working for peace and social justice, we are letting the community know what we value and also become more visible in the community. I hope that we enter new relationships that present themselves with integrity and intention. Let us have a deep and honest discussion about what we really have to give and what we hope to gain from the opportunities afforded by our new meetinghouse.

Two and one half years later I still find myself longing for an opportunity to have that deep and honest discussion with all meeting members and attenders. Not just about how to relate to the larger community around us, but first what kind of community we aspire to be with each other. What is our understanding of our meeting as a covenant community? What common commitment binds us together?

I remember the Meeting for Business when we decided to buy the meetinghouse—when way opened miraculously after decades of indecision and conflict. At that moment objections melted away and divine light was absolutely, unmistakably present binding all who were there. This was my first experience of a gathered meeting.

I am eager for us to have a discussion as a meeting of how we put our faith into practice in relation to the meetinghouse. "Quakers' understanding of faith is that true human fulfillment comes from an attempt to live life in the spirit of love and truth and peace, answering that of God in everyone. These beliefs spring from a sense of equality, compassion and seeing the sacred in all life. The interaction between faith and action, as expressed in the testimonies, is at the heart of Quaker spiritual experience and living." (Quaker United Nations Office pamphlet, Geneva, NY). I know that many of us know the fulfillment of giving back and living our faith in our personal lives. I am awed by the collective impact we have had on the community as individuals. But what does it mean to do this as a meeting?

On Sunday, November 10 at the monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting will consider a report recommending that the Meeting encourage some groups to use the meetinghouse free of charge.

— Karen Friedeborn

Events Brought to Us by the Program Committee

Much of the work of the Meeting—everything from peace witness activities to washing the tea towels—is done in and by committees.

Experiment With Light

“Experiment With Light” is a guided meditation that tries to reproduce the transformative experiences of early Quakers in their Meetings for Worship, by bringing the light to bear on issues of concern to us. This guided meditation takes about 45 minutes, and is usually followed by silent reflection or journaling, and then by worship sharing.

Andre/ia Spies will now offer Experiment With Light on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of the month, beginning November 10 at 9:00 am (see calendar, page 6).

You can read about the Experiment with Light exercise in Rex Ambler’s *Light to Live By*. Copies are in the library. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Kenyon, Program Committee

What are Quakers really talking about when we refer to testimonies?

An adult discussion on November 3rd led by Nancy Riffer focused on the concept of “testimonies.”

At this month’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting will consider a report as described on page 1. This report refers to “the right use of resources and right understanding of the testimonies”.

In *Essays on the Quaker vision of Gospel Order*, Lloyd Lee Wilson writes:

Quakers have been notable over the centuries for a set of behaviors they have called testimonies.... In recent years Friends have treated these testimonies as valuable in and of themselves, but to our spiritual forebears this was not the case: they were the naturally-occurring outward signs that a more important and fundamental change had taken place within the individual.... They were changed people inwardly, and their outward lives changed as a result. These outward changes were called the testimonies of their lives, which were now seen as witnesses to the Truth.

As preparation for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in November, Friends may want to consider the following queries.

How are the Truths we have come to in our inner lives/spiritual practices reflected in our outward behavior?

How are testimonies relevant to our lives today?

— Nancy Riffer, for the Program Committee

One of the committees that sustains our spiritual community is Program Committee. The events on this page have all been facilitated and/or arranged through that committee.

Friends with Non-Quaker Families

For many of us, the time we spend at Meeting events is time away from partners and children. 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, November 17 at 9:00am to share experiences, learn from one another, and think about ways the Meeting might make Friends with non-Quaker families feel more welcome.

— Carolyn Kenyon, for the Program Committee

Spiritual Friendship Workshop

What is spiritual friendship? How can we find kindred souls to encourage and challenge us on our spiritual journeys? We invite everyone to a practical workshop on December 1st on creating and cultivating both a relationship to another person and one’s relationship to Spirit.

Spiritual friendship is a practice of deep listening, of opening to the movement of Spirit, and of celebrating our journeys of faith. Though some may grow from an established relationship based on similar interests or values, other spiritual friendships begin through an explicit leading to deepen one’s experience of worship or to meet Spirit in new ways. After considering how spiritual friendship overlaps with more familiar styles of companionship and how it may be practiced formally or informally, participants will be invited to practice both offering and receiving this unique style of listening. We are hopeful that, in this brief time, participants will become acquainted with the gifts of spiritual friendship and will be encouraged to seek and know other kindred souls.

Please join us Sunday, December 1 from 9-10:15 am. The workshop will be facilitated by Holly White.

Commemoration of Canandaigua Treaty

The 219th anniversary of the historic Canandaigua Treaty between the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Confederacy) and the United States will be commemorated November 11th. Susan Wolfe, QuakerWolf@gmail.com or 272-1618 invites you to join her in attendance. All activities are free and open to the public.

In November of 1794, the treaty was negotiated and signed by Colonel Timothy Pickering, official agent of George Washington, and sachems from the Six Nations (Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Tuscarora). The treaty brought peace between the two, and recognized the sovereignty of the Six Nations to govern and set laws as individual nations.

On November 11, 2013, representatives from the Six Nations and the U.S. will march side by side to honor continuing the "chain of friendship" agreement between nations. This year is especially noteworthy with the recognition of the 400th anniversary of the Two Row Wampum between the Six Nations and the Dutch, the subject of the keynote speech by Chief Jake Edwards (Onondaga) later in the day.

At 1:30 pm, a parade led by Haudenosaunee Chiefs will leave from the Canandaigua Primary School (96 W. Gibson St.) head up to Main Street, ending at the Ontario County Courthouse. Also in attendance will be Quaker representatives whose forebears attended the original signing to ensure fair negotiations. From 12-4 pm, attendees are invited to view one of only two original copies of the Treaty and pertinent letters at the Ontario County Historical Society (55 N. Main St.). A potluck supper at 4:30 pm will be provided at the School cafeteria.

This event is organized by the Friends of Ganondagan and is made possible through the collaboration with the Canandaigua City School District, City of Canandaigua, and the Friends of Ganondagan. It is sponsored by the Haudenosaunee Peace & Trade Committee, Mohawk Nation Council, Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Tuscarora Nation of Indians, and the Seneca Nation of Indians. Visit ganondagan.org/TreatyCelebration.html or call 585-742-1690 for more information.

November 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 (November 9, 2008)

Garry Thomas reported for IMM's Refugee Working Group, formed the previous year under the care of the Peace Witness and Social Justice Committees to give financial and other types of support to two Burmese and Iraqi immigrant families. As of the end of the previous month, \$5,000 had been raised, primarily through the monthly collection basket; approximately \$2,300 had been spent to date, primarily for medical expenses of the families. Bonnie Tyler reported that the Burmese family is in critical need for support--both financial and emotional, due to a recent serious accident and the need for immediate medical assistance.

10 Years Ago (November 9, 2003)

The Peace Witness Committee reported on the Peace Vigil held downtown every Thursday afternoon. They are getting a wonderful response from passers-by, especially drivers coming down the State Street hill. Some responses are not so positive, but the point is people read the signs and think about the words, whether they agree or not. The many signs used were displayed, e.g., "Has the War on Iraq made us safer here?"; "Violence is a Sign of Desperation."; "Our grief is not a cry for War."; "Democracy: A Privilege. A Responsibility."

[Note: this weekly vigil continues today—from 5:00 to 5:30 PM Thursdays.]

25 Years Ago (November 14, 1988)

Ron Ozer and Katy Van Dusan reported for the Sanctuary Committee. The Going Home campaign done with CUSLAR (Committee on US-Latin American Relations) to benefit refugees returning to El Salvador from refugee camps in Honduras was attended by 140 people and \$1,300 was raised. Juan, our local refugee, had his second INS hearing in Buffalo and ten Ithaca-area people were present to help document the process. His next hearing is Nov. 29. Juan needs work again, as the outdoor work he has been doing is ending. Friends should know that Juan is doing stained glass work in Ned's basement.

30 Years Ago (November 14, 1983)

David Ruff reported for the Building Committee that the concrete floor has been poured for the pavilion at the Hector Meetinghouse.

55 Years Ago (November 10, 1958)

Helmut Sieverts reported for the DP Committee that the Basil family, including two girls of ages two and eight, will be arriving soon from Germany. The committee will meet soon to explore possibilities for housing and employment in Ithaca. Thor Rhodin was added to this committee.

70 Years Ago (November 8, 1943)

Herbert Stoddert visited the Meeting and reported as representative of the new monthly meeting at the Big Flats Civilian Public Service camp. Ten yearly meetings were represented within this new meeting. Their members wished to develop closer ties with monthly meetings in New York State. Several will be at Poplar Ridge the following week, where they hope to develop closer social and religious fellowship. They were invited to come to Ithaca December 4-5.

— Tom Brown, Historian

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ed to the Treasurer by the first of the month after the month in which the purchase was made.)

- d. In the rare instance when no receipt is available, the committee approver can hand write a note to Treasurer with all pertinent information – date of purchase, item/s, amount and committee plus approver's initials. The note can then be forwarded to Treasurer for payment.
2. **Reimbursement for items purchased** for use of the Meeting. For example, plants for gardens, copying at Staples where we do not have a charge account, etc.
 - a. Please keep the receipt and give it to the committee approver. Tell the committee approver why you bought the item/s and what the date was.
 - b. Committee approver should review purchase, write the date of approval, committee name and approver's initials on the receipt.
 - c. Receipt can then be forwarded to Treasurer with name of person to whom reimbursement should be made.
 3. **Credit towards donation** requested for purchase of something for the Meeting.
 - a. Please keep the receipt for the item, add the reason for the purchase and give it to committee approver for acknowledgement of the purchase. Pertinent information, as above, should be noted.
 - b. Notation "Request for Donation Credit" should be clearly stated, including name of purchaser.
 - c. The receipt can then be forwarded to Treasurer who will take appropriate action for the receipt of the donation.
 - d. If no receipt of purchase/charge is available, committee approver can hand write a note to Treasurer including all pertinent information and the designation of "Request for Donation Credit."

Please note that no reimbursement, bill payment or donation credit for purchases/charges will be made until the above documentation is received. As we wish to pay our bills to credit accounts in a timely manner your cooperation is needed.

Notes from the Library

The library shelves at the Third Street Meeting House have begun to fill up with books for browsing and borrowing. Although Ithaca Monthly Meeting has maintained a lending library of books about Quakerism for many decades, finally there is open space where folks can comfortably view the collection.

According to the official charge to the Library Committee, these are the materials appropriate for the collection:

- Books by or about Quakers
- Books of special interest to Friends
- Biblical materials and other selected religious materials
- Periodicals of interest to Quakers

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.

Here are some of the shelf labels:

Quaker Basics

This is essentially an expansion of the titles that have been on the shelves in the Edwards Room and also are available at the Quaker Basics shelf at the Burt House.

The Gathered Meeting

This shelf was inspired by the January 2013 issue of SPARK, publication of New York Yearly Meeting. That entire issue featured the theme of "The Gathered Meeting." At the end was a bibliography of resource materials for the gathered meeting. That provided

Native American Month at IC

Special events at Ithaca College:

Wed Nov 6 Textor 103, 7pm. Film: *Bury My Heart with Tonawanda* about Native Americans and perspectives on disabilities.

Tues Nov. 12 Klingenstein Lounge, 7pm. Native Identity Panel and the Role of Allies with Hollie Kulago (Diné) and Ettie Anderson (Diné)

such interesting opportunity and challenge for this librarian to set about promptly seeking out those resources we already owned in the collection. Next, a call to FGC Book Store located the rest of the list.

Bibles

Prayer

Earth Care

This committee has long maintained a lending collection, and now the expanded collection has a shelf.

Peace Witness and Social Justice

These two committees both have shelf space with reference materials for borrowing and browsing.

Audio-Visual

These materials will circulate just like books. Please be sure to sign the card and place in the sign-out box.

Pamphlets & Outreach Materials

Materials are now displayed with the library materials only if they are specifically Quaker informational pamphlets or pamphlets from organizations that our Meeting supports.

Finally, there is a new shelf is labeled:

Fiction — Quaker

Responding to an interest in fiction, this shelf was created for folks to donate, swap, share and exchange books of fiction relating to Quakers and Quakerism. This will be an entirely informal arrangement. These books will not have pockets and cards and will not be catalogued into the Library. Please! – *Quaker-related fiction only.*

— Wilma Brown, Librarian

Fri Nov. 15 Emerson Suites, 6pm. Native Identities in Hip Hop with performances by Bboy Remind, Artson and Pandora

Tues Nov. 19 Klingenstein Lounge, 7pm. Crooked Arrows: Lacrosse in Native America with Alf Jacques and presentation of the film *Crooked Arrows*.

All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Contact Brooke Hansen, kbhansen@ithaca.edu, 274-1735.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, October 13, 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 10.01 Opening. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on October 13, 2013. At 12:15 pm, eleven Friends gathered in open worship. Clerk acknowledged Holly White and Nancy Gabriel who were holding us the Light.

Clerk read Parker Palmer's definition of the word "care," from *And A Little Child Shall Lead Them*. Palmer quotes from a letter received from a family friend struggling with an unhappy son:

"At age twenty-one," the father writes to Palmer, "it seems Tom has something yet for the world, and our prayers are on this energy, but we are also respectful of the soul's own movement."

Palmer continues, "I cannot think of a better definition of what it means to care: To pray for life as we understand it, but to respect the soul's own movement, which we often cannot understand."

2013 10.02 Steve Mohlke's Website Project. Nancy Riffer read a report prepared by Steve Mohlke as a part of his School of the Spirit program. This report appeared in the October newsletter and proposes a community discussion—under his leadership—concerning an overhaul of the meeting's website.

The meeting approves Steve's website overhaul project. @

2013 10.03 Trustee Paying Bills and Reimbursement Guidelines. Marilyn Ray spoke of some problems in ensuring there is adequate documentation of spending on behalf of the Meeting. The Meeting needs to regularize its procedures for handling purchases by committees in order to properly steward the Meeting's finances. In July, Trustees submitted guidelines to Monthly Meeting, and the guidelines were sent back to committee for further seasoning.

The revised guidelines were circulated [and are appended below]. Discussion clarified that meeting committees have budgets, and that reimbursement guidelines apply only to items purchased within committee decision-making structures and budget guidelines. Friends approved the guidelines with minor changes clarifying the relationship of spending to budgets. @

2013 10.04 New York Yearly Meeting covenant donation. Our clerk received a letter from New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) requesting that meetings increase covenant donations by 5%. Our meeting's current donation to NYYM is \$15,000, and thus a 5% increase would be \$750. Clerk read a letter supporting this proposal from Steve Mohlke. Friends approved the proposal that the Meeting's annual budget for next year—for a fiscal year from January to December—should include \$15,750 for NYYM. @

2013 10.05 Naming Committee. Marilyn Ray, assistant clerk and convener of the Naming Committee, reported on progress on assembling a Naming Committee, the committee that handles appointments to Nominating. Members of the Naming Committee will be Antonia Saxon, clerk; Marilyn Ray, assistant clerk; Mike Simkin, treasurer, and Nancy Gabriel, representative from Ministry & Worship. Meeting approved the composition of the Naming Committee.

Marilyn Ray also proposes that Nancy Gabriel serve as special member of the Nominating Committee to cover the activities for another member who may have to step aside or curtail activities due to competing responsibilities. Meeting approved that Nancy serve Nominating Committee in this capacity if needed. @

2013 10.06 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin provided an overview of the state of the meeting's finances as we move into the final months of our fiscal year and look to close the financial books on the Meetinghouse acquisition project. Friends received the report. Mike offered to educate committees and other Friends about the nature of the meeting's budget. @

2013 10.07 Other concerns. A Friend expressed concern about unmet pledges to the Meetinghouse and what discussions may have taken place with those who have not followed through. Mike Simkin described Finance Committee's efforts to communicate with those who pledged more than they have given. @

Thirteen Friends settled into worship around 1:20pm before adjourning. The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is scheduled for November 10, 2013, at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Procedures for Payment of Bills and Reimbursement

Please note that the following procedures are not required for items already specifically identified on the budget, e.g. insurance, or a named line item, such as the Worker's Rights Center. Each committee should appoint a committee member to be the approver of all charges and purchases.

- 1. Payment of bills for charge accounts.** Charge accounts are at Ithaca Agway, B&W, Gnomon, FedEx/Kinkos and others.
 - a. Please keep a copy of the receipt for every purchase. After noting the purpose of the purchase, please sign your initials and give the receipt to the committee member in charge of approving such a charge.
 - b. Committee approver should review the purchase, write the date of approval, committee name and approver's initials on the receipt.
 - c. The receipt can then be forwarded to Treasurer for payment when the charge bill is received. (Note: All charge account receipts or requests for reimbursement should be forward-

Bills, continued on page 4

Quaker Bakers Arise!

Friends' luscious cookies have drawn grateful praise on many occasions. On November 21, we will again be providing food for the awards dinner of the Paul Schreurs Memorial Scholarship Program.

If you can, plan to bake up a batch for these worthy young people. If not this time, there

will be more chances. Please let Nancy Gabriel (277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu) know if you'd like to drop off some cookies, or to help with prep or cleanup (now or in future, so we can call you). On 11/21 you could stay for dinner too and get to know the students and mentors.

Women's Chair Yoga

This gentle yoga class will continue at least through December. Consider joining us Mondays and Fridays at Third St Meetinghouse, 11AM-noon. For more information, please contact Nancy Gabriel at 277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu.

November 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Experiment with Light

Sunday, November 10, 9a

Join Andre/ia Spies in this guided meditation that tries to reproduce the transformative experiences of early Quakers in their Meetings for Worship. See page 2 for more information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, November 10, Rise of Meeting

Join in the Quaker decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday.

Friends with Non-Quaker Families

Sunday, November 17, 9a

Share experiences, learn from one another, and think about the ways in which meeting might make Friends with non-Quaker families feel more welcome. See page 2 for more information.

Fourth Sunday Brunch

Sunday, November 17, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship.

Earth Care Committee

Sunday, November 20, Rise of Meeting

Join us in the Meetinghouse library. All are welcome.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, November 21, 5p

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

Coming in December:

Spiritual Friendship Workshop, December 1

See page 2 for more information.

Every Sunday

- 9:30a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse; entering silence by 10:15.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**: attenders exit the meetingroom.

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