



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

August 2014

IMM CONTACTS

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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



An earlier Peace Vigil including Wilma Brown, Marjorie Baines and other Friends.

Laying Down of the Peace Vigil

The Peace Witness Committee decided to lay down the weekly Peace Vigil. The last Vigil took place on July 31. The Vigil began in March 2003 as a statement against the war in Iraq. There has been a weekly Quaker presence on one or more of the corners near the Community School of Music and Arts over these past 11+ years, with only a few weeks when no one attended. Vigil participants held signs, such as:

War is Not the Answer

Quaker Peace Vigil Peace

Is War the Way? Peace

Understanding Difference.

At the beginning of the war in Iraq, and during periods of particular violence in Iraq and Afghanistan, there were strong responses from passers-by—waves, peace signs, honking horns. Most were expressing agreement. But some expressed clear anger at what appeared to them as a lack of patriotism. Some drivers pulled their cars over to talk with those at the Vigil, some got out of their cars to talk at length. Over the years, a number of veterans stopped because they felt particularly disrespected. But when veterans, or anyone, decided to speak with those at the Vigil, they found a desire to understand one another. These dialogs did not include raised voices or anger, the goal was real communication.

There were also periods of time when coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was not on the front pages of our newspapers. Interestingly, at those times it was the Peace Vigil that seemed to serve as a reminder that these wars were being waged, and that there were many casualties of Iraqi and Afghan civilians, US soldiers, and soldiers from other countries.

Many F/friends have participated in this Vigil over the years. But in the past several years, the Vigil has been carried forward by some of the grandmothers in our Meeting. As these women have passed away or become unable to attend the Vigil, it has become harder to

Peace Vigil, continued on page 2



Peace Vigil, continued from page 1

continue. It is with great thanks to those grandmothers, and to all who have participated over the years, that we bring this Vigil to an end. It is especially sad to end at this time when there is fierce fighting taking place in Syria, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. But though the Vigil is ending, our witness to peace as Quakers will continue.

For those who wish to be part of a public statement such as the vigil, the Ithaca Catholic Worker has a weekly presence on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00am at the corner of Route 13 and West Clinton Street (near CVS). It has a particular anti-drone focus, but all peace signs are welcome. There is already a Quaker presence at this from our Meeting and from Perry City Meeting.

— Audrey Brown, Elizabeth Schneider, Lenora Schneller

We're Hosting Fall Gathering, September 20

Ithaca Meeting is hosting Fall Gathering, the get together for all of Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting, on Saturday, September 20. It's a great way to get to know other Friends in our region. There are many ways for Friends to take part, from providing hospitality for traveling Friends, to helping with food and a youth program, as well as attending the Gathering.

Barbara Spring, ARCH coordinator, will lead a session in the morning on "Celebrating Lives and Life Stories— Everyone Has a Story!". After lunch together, we will have Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

More details will be in the September newsletter.

For more information, and offers of help, please contact Marilyn Ray or Bronwyn Mohlke, Ithaca Meeting's Representatives to Regional Meeting.

Giving to IMM

Almost all of the Meeting's funds come from the donations of members and attenders. We receive no grants or outside assistance. We make some money from building rental, both at the Third Street Meetinghouse and at the Burt House. The rental income contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings but does not cover those costs completely.

Friends are asked to consider giving to IMM to support our operations. You may send donations to our Treasurer Mike Simkin at 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. For the sake of convenience, consider that donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account on a regular basis. To set up electronic donations, simply complete an authorization form, available in the meetinghouse entry hall, and send it to Mike Simkin at the address above.



The most active member of our Meeting that you may have never met: Helen Schantz. Her email is helenschantz@gmail.com

Helen Schantz, Long Time Friend

Helen Schantz sends her greetings from her home in Odessa, NY.

- Wife of the late Karl Schantz, an artist from a family of artists
- A grower of poppies and african violets
- A bird watcher, a poetess, a Quaker
- A great believer of the small and miniature
- Mother of many daughters

— Ann Rhodin

[Ed: Helen follows our listserv and is a faithful newsletter reader. While she cannot physically join us on Sundays, she is very much with us!]

August in IMM History

Note: Often in the past there has been no IMM Meeting for Business in July and August.

5 Years Ago (August 9 and 22, 2009)

At two Called Meetings, IMM considered the West Dryden property for a future meetinghouse. A close bond of seeking was present at both meetings but there was not unity about acquiring the property. (This was the last of numerous properties IMM examined over a 60 year period before uniting on the current Third Street meetinghouse property in 2010.)

25 Years Ago (August 14, 1989)

Peggy Walbridge, speaking for the Building Committee, presented Scott Sears, the carpenter who would be doing repair work on the Hector Meetinghouse. Scott proposed moving the stairs from the side to the front of the building and tearing down the carport. He also indicated that sufficient space existed to build a wheel chair-accessible ramp on the west side of the building. Meeting agreed with moving the steps and tearing down the carport (although the carport is still there). Scott was asked to provide estimates for the wheel chair ramp and also for replacing the window at the north end of the building with an architecturally compatible door and simple steps to the ground (the location of the door was not changed).

70 Years Ago (August 14, 1944)

The plan suggested last month for having IMM members regularly entertain members of the Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp from Big Flats was implemented. On Eighth Month 6, two young men spent their leave with the Petrys and with a group of Young Friends at a picnic on First Day. On Eighth Month 12, two members of the camp were hosted by Francis and Alice Dart. Next week the Kochs will entertain our CPS guests. All agreed that this plan was working well.

— *Tom Brown, IMM historian*

From NYYM Summer Sessions in Silver Bay

When Joyce Schroeder, our plenary speaker at Summer Sessions, was in worship before attending Sessions, she heard a message: "Make my garden grow."

In her plenary presentation, she invited Friends to hold the question of how each might be led to Make Our Garden Grow. Now, NYYM has created an on-line forum in which Friends can share their responses to this query with each other. We invite you to visit the Make Our Garden Grow forum on our website to record your contribution: <http://www.nyyim.org/?q=MakeOurGardenGrow>

Conversations about Children, Adults & Meeting

I'd like to announce three upcoming conversations about children, adults, and our meeting. They are meant to help knit together the parts of our meeting that span generations. These discussions are open to anyone who's interested and childcare will be provided.

Conversation 1: Worship (9am Sunday August 3)

What is Meeting FOR? Why do I go each week, be it downstairs or upstairs? What is it that I like about Meeting? What do I do while I'm there? What are the practices that I enjoy and/or find useful myself during the rest of the week? How do I prepare for Meeting for Worship? How can we share all of those things with our meeting's kids?

Conversation 2: Practice (9am Sunday August 24)

How can adults truly model looking for light in every person? How can we act on our commitment to peaceful conflict resolution? (In other words, what can I do to get Eleanor to wear pants to the grocery store?) What do we do with kids' violent play or interest in good characters and evil characters? What might the Quaker ideal of "letting your life speak" rather than lecturing others look like in a parenting or mentoring context?

Conversation 3: Community (9am Sunday Sept 21)

What does it mean to hang out supportively with Quaker kids who aren't your own (whether you are a parent or not)? Where and when has this proved most successful? How can we encourage young people in building trusting, safe relationships? Where can supportive adults look for ideas and resources? Most importantly, what might kids need from us?

— *Alexa Yesukevich*

And... An Informal Gathering of Children & Adults

On first and third Sunday, Friends are invited to a gathering of all ages from 9:30-10:15am. This is a time when those moved to converse about Friends/history/ideas/concepts can visit, ask questions and share perspectives. Our imagination does not lead us to consider this a program. Rather we imagine the shared time as a simple path of seeking and wondering aloud. An informal, light way to hear what children say and likewise share time worn considerations about our shared faith... hopefully bettering our practice.

While the weather is fair, we can see sitting outside. As the coolness of winter envelopes and we move inside, any available room or common area upstairs will suffice.

— *Fell Cadwallader, Blair Jennings, Maisy Cadwallader*

Notes from Silver Bay from the Clerk of NYYM

Dear Friends,

This past week a little over 500 Friends gathered in Silver Bay, NY for our Summer Sessions. The minutes are now available on the Yearly Meeting website. Here are some things that took place as we did business.

We heard memorial minutes for Alma Ruth Steward (Wednesday), Miriam Kelly Brush (Thursday), Newton Garver (Friday afternoon), and Gary Sickler (Friday night).

Friends approved a travel minute for Susan (Sue) Regen.

We heard the State of the Society report.

The General Secretary spoke about our capacity for renewal.

Powell House reported on their plans and asked a couple of questions of Friends.

We heard an epistle from the Young Adult Concerns Committee.

The Young Adult Field Secretary, now in her fourth year, brought us reflections from her work, and offered suggestions about making connections with one another.

The revised Handbook page for the Sessions Committee was approved.

Friends received a report from our representatives to the 2014 FWCC, Section of the Americas' Consultations.

The Meetings for Discernment Steering committee gave a report on their activities.

Friends approved a minute to continue Meetings for Discernment for the next six years.

Friends also approved a request from the Earthcare Working Group that the Yearly Meeting support the People's Climate March to take place September 21 in New York City by registering as a participating group and by publicizing the March. For hospitality and March logistics please contact Margaret Lew or Maureen Healy of 15th Street Meeting.

At a called meeting early Friday afternoon Friends approved a final Statement of Leadings and Priorities. The approval followed several days of discussion and then discernment and some revision. Friends are encouraged to begin living into the statement.

On Friday night Friends approved a Lockport-Brinkerhoff Fund request from Adirondack Monthly Meeting for meetinghouse improvements.

The Sessions Committee offered a report of Friends attending and funds raised at our various activities.

Friends approved our 2014 epistle.

— Jeffrey L. Hitchcock, clerk, New York Yearly Meeting

AVP Gathering in Maynooth, Ireland

In July I attended the AVP International Gathering in Maynooth, Ireland (outside Dublin). AVP is now presented in 60 countries around the world, and there were 154 facilitators from 43 different countries attending. We spent part of the week sharing on a variety of topics designed to help us improve our workshops and provide new ideas or approaches. The remainder of the time was spent on creating a strong, organized network to support AVP facilitators and activities in all parts of the world.

The highlight of the week was Wednesday's visit to Wheatfield Prison, a men's maximum security prison near Dublin. The facilitators there had planned a wonderful day. In the morning we had addresses from prison administrators, and several of the men shared their personal journeys with AVP, telling us how it had made such a difference.

"Though we may be in the gutters some of us still look at the stars"

"In the past the people were afraid to approach me because of my reputation of violence, since I became an AVP facilitator people find it easier to approach me when looking for help with their own problems.

"I came to prison ... with a life sentence for murder...a year later I did my first AVP workshop...it taught me to turn my back on violence...it gave me the tools to change my life...it taught me a lot about empathy...which makes it less likely to be violent towards somebody. This is probably the most important thing AVP has taught me and if I can teach that to someone else I have done my job"

"it taught me to be creative...I write a lot of poetry now...I couldn't live without AVP...thank AVP for making me the man I am today."

Finally one inmate concluded with the words of John O'Donoghue:

"May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe."

We returned home inspired by the strong presence of AVP in the prison and by the weapons amnesty in the prison that the AVP facilitators had initiated in partnership with the Red Cross. Since the weapons amnesty, slashings in the prison have dropped dramatically.

AVP International is committed to assisting facilitators and programs all around the world, particularly in those countries where violence is a part of daily life and/or where AVP is struggling to become established. There are opportunities for facilitators to travel to those parts of the world and lend a hand. I made several contacts and hope to travel to some of those places to help where I can.

The next international conference will be in three years; the location is yet to be decided. They move the conference to different areas of the world, and next time will hold it in Asia. Funds are contributed to provide scholarships for facilitators attending from developing countries, and each country is encouraged to find ways to sponsor formerly-incarcerated facilitators.

— Susan Wolf

Epistle from those at New York Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

At Silver Bay, New York, in this our 319th Summer Session, the Spirit moved mightily among us to transform conflict into loving community. Our Priorities Working Group, charged with listening to Friends around the Yearly Meeting and discerning our priorities and leadings, presented the results of three years' diligent, faithful and spirit-led work. Our plenary speaker, Joyce Schroeder, brought us tools for change. We labored and prayed, testing and strengthening an emerging capacity to experience "disagreement without estrangement" (2012 NYYM Epistle). After tender listening, re-visioning, and with renewed trust, we joyfully approved the NYYM Statement of Leadings and Priorities.

A "Statement of Leadings and Priorities" to Guide the Yearly Meeting

[Ed: This is slightly abridged. The full text is at http://www.nyyym.org/sites/default/files/StatementofLeadingsPriorities_2014-07-25.pdf]

In approving this Statement of Leadings and Priorities, we commit to focus the energy and resources of our Yearly Meeting for the coming five years on achieving a vision of growing and vital monthly meetings which are open and loving communities, effective in their outreach, active in the world, and skillful in nurturing the spiritual lives of Friends of all ages.

[...] We reaffirm our commitment to utilize these Leadings and Priorities in "preparing budgets, staff work plans, and other services and initiatives of the Yearly Meeting and its committees and constituent parts." (Minute 2011-4-33.)

We Envision A Yearly Meeting Deeply Grounded In The Practice Of Our Faith

We hear a clear sense from Friends that the core of all they do centers in their Meeting for Worship and their life as a community. [...] We, the Body of Friends gathered through our New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the development of programs to teach and share our spiritual skills with each other, and to help meetings to revitalize themselves.

We Envision A Yearly Meeting Made Up Of Strong, Vital Monthly Meetings

Meetings and Friends seek information and assistance with the necessities of operating a meeting, such as insurance, cemetery maintenance, fund-raising and advancement. We, the Body of Friends gathered through our NYYM, recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the development of programs to help sustain our monthly meetings financially and to increase membership.

We Envision A Yearly Meeting Gathered Together Into One Body

Friends express a deep yearning for increased contact and connection with each other. Regular interaction among Friends throughout New York Yearly Meeting helps sustain and deepen our Society. We, the Body of Friends gathered through our NYYM, recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the pursuit of greater contact and spiritual relationship among Friends.

This is the beginning of something, not the end.

Friends who paddled in a river journey commemorating the Two Row Wampum, a treaty between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee, urged us to "Be caught in the breath that drives us forward as Friends." We felt this manifested in the joyful laughter of children, in the energy of the Earthcare Working Group, in the continuing transformation Young Adult Friends experienced, and in the songs and spoken words of Maggie Edmonson in Bible Study, which reminded us of the need for quiet contemplation prior to action. We seek ways to hold and carry the Yearly Meeting, as the beloved Friends, whose passing we marked this year, did so ably.

We Envision A Yearly Meeting That Nurtures Our Children, Youth, And Young Adults

We hear Friends' call to focus attention on integrating our children, youth and young adults into the fabric of our community and to provide opportunities for them to experience and reflect on our spiritual practices. We seek to offer abundant opportunities and welcoming spaces for exploring and growing into the Light. We seek to make our monthly meetings a place where they can develop loving relationships with peers and adults, where youth are supported as they transition to adulthood, and where young adults are recognized for their gifts and encouraged in their participation in their monthly meetings and beyond. We, the Body of Friends gathered through our NYYM, recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the nurturing of our children, youth, and young adults.

We Envision A Yearly Meeting That Supports and Amplifies Our Witness

Meetings and Friends look to the Yearly Meeting to be an active presence in the broader society for Friends' faith, values, ministry and witness. [...] The Yearly Meeting affords the opportunity for Friends carrying common concerns to act in concert. We, the Body of Friends gathered through our NYYM, recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the responsibility to be an active voice for Friends' faith, values, ministry and witness in the world, and to support Friends active witness.

We Envision A Yearly Meeting That Is Accountable and Transparent

Meetings and Friends express concern that the Yearly Meeting organization has not been fully accountable and transparent in its operations. [...] We, the Body of Friends gathered through our NYYM, recognize as a Priority for the Yearly Meeting the responsibility to hold itself accountable to the above priorities, ensuring their faithful fruition.

While particular committees may be well-suited for pursuing parts of this vision, these are the Priorities of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We are all responsible for all the aspects of this work. [...] Their realization will require the worshipful and focused dedication of everyone within the Yearly Meeting, including all our committees and working groups, all our staff, and all concerned Friends and meetings. We are called to work together to make this vision a reality.

Women's Chair Yoga: Schedule Changes

During August the women's chair yoga group will miss a few of our regular Monday and Friday 11am-noon meetings. We know already that we will not meet on 8/15, and there will almost certainly be other such days. If you're not on the yoga e-mail list, check with Nancy Gabriel, ntg2@cornell.edu. After no meeting on Labor Day we anticipate resuming the regular schedule.

Contractor Begins Work on Elevette

Our contractor, John Shipe, begins installing the shaft for a small lift at the meetinghouse on August 4th.

Friends should be aware that the meetinghouse will be occupied by the contractor and associated construction noises during the 8-5 working day for the next three weeks.

— Dick Crepeau

Supporting Hospice through Women Swimmin'

On August 9th, scores of women will be swimming the 1.2 miles across Cayuga Lake as a fundraiser for Hospicare. This is a beautiful event, and is an important part of how our Hospicare facility can provide hospice services to anyone without regard for their ability to pay.

I feel so blessed that I am able to be a part of the group of women who will make this swim.

I invite Friends to support Hospicare by sponsoring me—and/or someone else. Go to www.womenswimmin.org and click on the "Support a participant" button!

— Marin Clarkberg

Note: there was no Business Meeting in July

August 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Conversation about Children, Adults & Meeting Sunday, August 4, 9a

Join in an all-ages conversation on the subject of **worship**. See page 3 for more information.

In Remembrance: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Wednesday, August 6, 6pm

On August 6, 1945 at 8:15am in Hiroshima, Japan, the first nuclear bomb was dropped by the U.S. There will be a one hour silent vigil (rain or shine) at the Peace Pole in front of the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way. This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 69 years ago in Hiroshima at the instant of the blast, and of those who suffered and died from their injuries. We will also be remembering the thousands of persons who were killed and injured three days later in Nagasaki, Japan. There is seating arranged around the Peace Pole for the purpose of this vigil.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, August 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.

An Informal Gathering of Children & Adults Sunday, August 17, 9am

On first and third Sunday, Friends are invited to a gathering of all ages from 9:30-10:15am. See page 3 for more information.

Conversation about Children, Adults & Meeting Sunday, August 24, 9a

Join in an all-ages conversation on the subject of **practice**. See page 3 for more information.

Brunch Sunday, August 24, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to stay for fellowship and a bite to eat after the rise of meeting. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share with others.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, August 28, 5p

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

Every Sunday

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at Hector Meetinghouse .
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School and/or childcare:** attenders exit the meetingroom at Third Street Meetinghouse.

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)
- Sun 1-3p **Friends Bike Clinic** on the meetinghouse deck