



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

February 2015

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:

Chuck Mohler
607-539-6454 • clm11@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

Violet Goncarovs & Brian Parks •
violet.goncarovs@gmail.com •
bt parks82@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

Fellowship Groups: Friendly Eights

Contrary to previous announcements, the Program Committee will not be offering GRIST (Growing in Spirit Together) groups at this time. Our difficulty finding Friends to facilitate GRIST groups led us to believe that this is not the right time.

On the other hand, we have heard a longing for fellowship groups, similar to the previous Friendly 8s. These groups would consist of approximately 10 people who generally gather about once a month for 6 to 8 times to get to know one another better and strengthen friendships. This may include sharing food or not. In the past, we have found that getting a group together and then trying to find a time in common isn't very workable, so people who volunteer to be a group convenor will set a day of the week and a time for their group to meet. We will have an online sign-up form for those interested in being in a Fellowship Circle to sign up for the time that you can meet.

These groups will begin in late February and early March. If you are interested in convening a Fellowship Circle, please contact Nancy Riffer at nancyriffer00@gmail.com or Carolyn Kenyon at clkenyon09@gmail.com.

Out of the Nest Coordinator Sought

CALM is looking for someone to be the organizer for the Out of the Nest program for teenagers. This program matches one teen with one member of the Meeting. They do a Quaker study of *Faith and Practice* together and explore how this relates to the individual teen. They do a work project together to make a difference in the world which is often financially supported by the Meeting. They hold a discussion about this project for the Meeting. They prepare for a clearness committee meeting where members of the Meeting sit with the teen and explore where the individual is being led and how the Meeting can support them. The coordinator helps match teens and mentors, makes sure things are going smoothly, informs the Meeting when the teen is ready for their project or their clearness committee. If you feel led to be the coordinator or just have questions, please contact Ellie Rosenberg, ellierosenberg7@gmail.com, 227-1403.



Giving to IMM

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form on the below and return it to the Treasurer: Mike Simkin, 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

AUTHORIZATION FORM	
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc. ES14909	
Your name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email address:	
I would like to make the following contribution(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund \$ _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Date of first contribution: ___/___/___ Frequency of contribution (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1st and 15th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____ \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____	
Total	
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete this section if using your checking or savings account	
Please debit my (check one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip	
Routing #:	Account #:
Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3	
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized signature: _____ Date: / /	

On the Mystery Discussion

The adult discussion group canceled in January will be held on Sunday Feb. 15th at 9am upstairs in the Meetinghouse. We will be considering the thoughts of Catherine Keller in her book, *On the Mystery*. I will be sharing some of my spiritual journey to help explain why I find this book so compelling. We will enter worship sharing to reflect on each of the questions below – questions raised by Keller’s theology.

What if God is not an omnipotent being but is a process? What if God is not once and for all but we are changing and God is changing?

What if God’s power is not “power over” but is the power of love—God as love (Eros) is luring living and non-living parts of the universe into relationship and God as love (unconditional love/ agape) is accepting of what is actual? What happens if the often cramped ideas of Christian love are expanded to include all that makes up the universe being involved in multiple forms of love?

What if God is drawing us into a dance of the universe in which we join God in making what has been impossible become possible?

— Nancy Riffer, for the Program Committee

Advices and Queries

The following selections are taken from New York Yearly Meeting’s *Faith and Practice*. Copies of *Faith and Practice* are available in our library. The document can also be downloaded in full from the New York Yearly Meeting website.

Advices

2. Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct, and to encourage the practice by their families and others.
3. Friends are advised to be mindful of their conduct and conversation and to observe the testimonies of simplicity and moderation.

Queries

1. Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?
2. Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

Aging, Death and Dying Workshops

The Ithaca Meeting ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) volunteers are offering workshops on aging, death & dying. These workshops are open to all who are interested, including caretakers and those in or approaching the “last third of life.”

There will be four stand alone workshops on Sundays after worship: February 22, March 22, April 26 & May 31. The workshops will start after a chance to get some brunch (shortly after 12:00) and run approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Some topics will be:

- Spiritual Gifts & Opportunities of Aging
- Getting Your Affairs in Order – Spiritually & Legally
- Quaker Values & End of Life Care – Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Ministry at Life’s End – Expectations, Vigiling, the Role of Hospice
- Burial Options

Please note: First three workshops are to be held after brunch on the fourth Sunday of the Month. Final Workshop scheduled on 5/31 to avoid Memorial Day and Cornell Commencement weekend. We’d love for you to attend all four workshops however come to as many as interest you and/or you are able.

Please note: Ithaca & Perry City Meeting Friends who have received on-going training include: Bronwyn Mohlke, Molly Ames, Susan Wolfe, Susan Ruff, Suzanne Kates, Rebekah Tanner and Elizabeth Root. Some of these ARCH volunteers will be involved in the Workshops and are available for private one-on-one consultation and assistance. Come and get to know our team and their talents!

For more information: please feel free to contact Workshop Organizers: Molly Ames, 315-323-0873 or mollyb.molly@gmail.com or Bronwyn Mohlke, 607-220-3219 or bjqmohlke@gmail.com.

ARCH training: Coming in March!

March 20-22, 2015 in Syracuse, NY

Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) offers older adults and persons with disabilities the information they need to enhance quality of life. An ARCH Visitor is a Friend in NYYM (New York Yearly Meeting) who has taken the ARCH Visitor training program because s/he has a call to visit seniors and adults with disabilities. 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.

Are you interested in going to the upcoming training in March, or would you like more information on being an ARCH Visitor?

For more information: please feel free to contact Workshop Organizers: Molly Ames, 315-323-0873 or mollyb.molly@gmail.com or Bronwyn Mohlke, 607-220-3219 or bjqmohlke@gmail.com.

Friends with Non-Quaker Families: Coming in March!

Many folks in the Meeting are part of a family whose other members are not Quaker. Last time we met on this topic, we talked about the experience of participating in a spiritual community that the other members of our families are not part of. This time we’ll dig deeper. We’ll consider the ways that having time away from our families nurtures us spiritually—and the ways it does not. We’ll discuss what it is about Friends that draws us to the Meeting despite the fact that it does not exert the same draw for the other members of our family, and spend some time envisioning ways to draw the threads of our lives together.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, March 1st, at 9:00am upstairs in the Meeting House. Facilitated by Antonia Saxon.

— Wallace Watson on behalf of Program Committee

Talent Show: Coming in March!

You know you’ve been waiting for it. Well wait no longer! The talent show is back and all it needs is YOU! Plan to join us at the meetinghouse, Saturday, March 7 for a 5pm potluck dinner, 6pm show time.

We have a special goal this year to cross-pollinate as many acts (and therefore Quakers) as we can. IMM jugglers with trumpet accompaniment? Sure! Acro-yoga demonstration and Shakespeare recitation? Why not?! Three generations of karate experts? We could only be so lucky! If you can do it, we can watch it (and probably find someone else to do it with you)!

This event is also a great opportunity for F/ friends who haven’t worshiped with us in a while (or ever) to connect and have fun together. We’d love to meet you or see you again, and promise that singing for us is not the same as agreeing to serve on a committee.

To get on the program, notify Maisy Cadwallader at lmcthedoodle1@gmail.com with your name, your talent/performance plans, and an estimate of the time you’ll need. We’ll make the rest happen!

— Gina Varrichio and Maisy Cadwallader

February in IMM History

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

5 Years Ago (February 14, 2010)

The Memorial Minute for Bonnie Tyler was read and approved.

The name of the Ministry and Oversight Committee was changed to Ministry and Worship.

IMM approved having the Clerk and Assistant Clerk gather further information on the Third Street property for sale that we later purchased, and to make arrangements so that Friends could visit the property. Two Business Meetings were scheduled from late February through June.

Meeting encouraged a leading of the Peace and Social Action Committee in making active opposition to the death penalty a significant focus for the committee and for the Meeting in the coming year.

10 Years Ago (February 13, 2005)

After a report by Betsy Keokosky for the Peace Witness Committee, IMM endorsed the sponsorship of Burmese refugee Mu Mu and invited Friends to help her in getting settled into her new community. [Note: Mu Mu's husband Eh Christ joined her later.]

Wilma Brown reported on the possibility of bringing the AFSC exhibit "Eyes Wide Open" to Ithaca. IMM minuted support of this initiative and agreed to be listed as a sponsor.

15 Years Ago (February 14, 2000)

Membership transfers to IMM were approved as follows: Mac Larsen, from Palo Alto, CA MM; Liam, Thomas, and Emily Murphy (the children as associate members) from Wilmington, DE MM.

65 Years Ago (February 13, 1950)

The committee reporting on the basis of membership in IMM handed out their report of recommendations with regard to prospective new members. It was approved that if a letter of application comes in, the Clerk should hold it up until s/he has made sure that the applicant is familiar with the Book of Discipline [now Faith and Practice], the history of Friends, etc. The report was approved with appreciation to the committee: A. Grace Mekeel, Sarah Wray, Theodore Oliver, Jean Klune, Edith Cope, and Loren Petry.

70 Years Ago (February 12, 1945)

The sewing committee reported that 20 dresses were finished and ready for shipment [to European clothing relief coordinated by AFSC].

Jean Klune, on the supper committee [suppers in conjunction with Monthly Business Meetings], "suggests that each of us contribute one red ration token each month," [which] "will greatly help the committed in planning our supper menus." [The red tokens were used during WWII to ration such items as canned goods, meats, sugar, coffee, gasoline, and tires].

75 Years Ago (February 20, 1940)

Four student Young Friends reported on their activities the past summer at AFSC-sponsored work camps in Ravenscroft PA, Macedonia GA, Pencraft – Tennessee Valley Authority, and San Pedro, CA.

— Tom Brown, IMM historian

Hector Meeting Historical Records

I recently obtained from Swarthmore Friends Library a CD containing digitized records from the Hector Monthly Meeting. These include minutes from about 1830 to 1958. Included are several separate files. Between 1859-60 and 1881 there were two separate Hector Meetings, Otisites and Kingites. Also, during some periods there were separate men's and women's meetings. There is also a file containing a register of births, deaths, and some membership data, with the earliest birth being in 1756 and the most recent death in 1965.

My primary interest in obtaining these records was to seek out any added information they might contain about early interactions between Hector and Ithaca Monthly Meetings, the extent to which some individuals might have been active in both meetings in the early years of IMM, and in any additional information about the Hector meetinghouse and grounds. However, much more can be ascertained about the nature and ways of a rural Conservative Quaker meeting during those years. The signature sheet required to obtain the records from Swarthmore indicated that the information was only for personal use, defined to include individual Meetings, and would not be used commercially. Within those limits, if anyone has sufficient interest to go through many pages of handwritten minutes (pdf files which are generally quite readable) and would like a CD copy, feel free to contact me. At some point I'll find an appropriate means to share with the Meeting what I learn.

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, January 11, 2014

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2015 01.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and for the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF Inc., on January 11, 2015. Copies of annual reports and the treasurer's annual report were distributed. A sign-in sheet was circulated. At 12:20 pm, 39 Friends gathered and settled into silent worship.

The Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel for holding the gathering in the Light.

Clerk read the following from Isaac Pennington's *A Short Catechism for the Sake of the Simple-Hearted*:

In the light which shines in all, and visits all, there is the power; and this power strives with the creature to work itself into the creature; and where there hath been the least breathing after life, there hath been a taste of the power: for this came from it. But the great deceiver of souls lifts up men's minds in the imagination to look for some great appearance of power, and so they slight and overlook the day of small things, and neglect receiving the beginning of that, which in the issue would be the thing they look for. Waiting in that which is low and little in the heart, the power enters, the seed grows, the kingdom is felt and daily more and more revealed in the power. And this is the true door and way to the thing: take heed of climbing over it.

After a period of silent worship, the Clerk introduced Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees and President pro tem of the Corporation.

2015 01.2 Annual Meeting of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated.

Present: Melissa Blake, Tommy Brown, Jonna Climie, Richard Crepeau, Marion Craig DaGrossa, James Finlay, Karen Friedeborn, Janet Frieswyk, Nancy Gabriel, Kathleen Gale, Chris Gartlein, Ginny Gartlein, Rebecca Gray, Blair Jennings, Carolyn Kenyon, John Lewis, Margaret McCasland, Charles Mohler, Bronwyn Mohlke, Elsa Mohlke, Steve Mohlke, Nancy Norton, Klaus Paasche, Carl Peterson, Marilyn Ray, Nancy Riffer, Ellie Rosenberg, Tom Ruscitti, Antonia Saxon, Elizabeth Schneider, Lenora Schneller, Mike Simkin, Dreia Spies, Joanne Sturgeon, Garry Thomas, Wallace Watson, Shirley Way, Emily Williams, Alexa Yesukevich.

1. Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees and President pro tem of the Corporation, indicated she has served the Corporation in Will White's absence since his illness. She then opened the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF, Inc., and gave the President's Annual Report for 2014.

2. Marilyn Ray recognized Nancy Hillegas' absence due to illness/hospitalization and read the annual report of the Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation for 2014.
3. Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Meeting and of the Corporation, gave the end of the fiscal year budget report. He noted that we had a very good year, financially. We are in very sound condition. Our collections were \$5440 more than we asked for over and above our 2014 budget. Our expenses were lower than budgeted and the excess moved to the Reserve Fund. Liquid assets total \$102,660 with no debt. Mike then noted comments/corrections to the printed 2014 Treasurer's/Budget Report. Last, he reviewed major financial transactions/events for 2014, as well as the addition of historical data and general funds.

Meeting received the reports with gratitude.

This ended the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. @

Clerk requested any committee with an included charge to skip over it and read its report from there (excepting Neighborhood Outreach as it is a new committee). Clerk also reversed the general order of the reading of reports, beginning with Young Friends and working back from there.

2015 01.3 Annual Reports

Friends presented the annual reports for the following committees: Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support, Burt House, Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM), Earthcare, Greeters, Hector Meeting House, Hospitality, Ministry and Worship, Neighborhood Outreach, Newsletter, Pastoral Care, Peace Witness, Program, Social Justice, Third Street Meetinghouse, and Young Friends.

Friends received the annual reports. @

2015 01.4 Other concerns.

Clerk invited Friends to share any concerns; none were brought forth.

Thirty-four 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 February 8, 2015..

Respectfully submitted,
Blair Jennings, Recording Clerk

Women's Chair Yoga *Schedule Change*

Now Mondays and Thursdays 11am to noon

Women of all ages are welcome to this group. We gather in the meeting room for gentle, yet powerfully restorative movement, coordinated with breathing and inward concentration. Those who have practiced for a while can attest to the well-being it has brought to our mental, spiritual, and physical health—though we

remain in “beginner’s mind”, always rediscovering the basics. We sit on chairs or stand, though some may want to be on the floor. No special clothing or equipment needed. Just come, or ask Nancy Gabriel 339-7123 if you have questions. We offer a donation to the teacher.

February 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Midweek Meeting at the Burt House Wednesday, February 4, 7:30p

Join us for thirty minutes of worship followed by a period of fellowship. The Burt House is at 227 N. Willard Way, and we meet in the Meditation Room, the first room to the right as you enter the door. (Note: there are no other midweek meetings at the Burt House planned for February.)

Potluck Dinner and Multigenerational Event Saturday, February 7, 5:30p

An Experiment with Sound.... What sounds are made in the Meeting House and how do they sound elsewhere in the Meeting House? Have you ever wondered what is happening upstairs when you hear something downstairs? Have you ever wondered what it sounds like downstairs when sounds happen upstairs? Walking, running, talking, singing, jumping, moving furniture, building with blocks. What about the elevator? What about basement noises? What about kitchen or bathroom noises? Does sound travel from over the library into the Meeting room? What about the ramp? We are hoping for many multigenerational seekers to make sounds and listen to sounds.

Annual Meeting of Ithaca Monthly Meeting Sunday, February 8, Rise of Meeting

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

Adult Discussion Sunday, February 15, 9a

Nancy Riffer will lead a discussion relating to the thoughts of Catherine Keller’s *On the Mystery*. We will enter worship sharing to reflect on questions raised by Keller’s theology. Please see page 2 for more information.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, February 22, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share. All are invited for fellowship even if not bringing food.

ARCH Training Sunday, February 22, After Brunch

Please see description on page 3. This first workshop in the series will include: introductions of participants and ARCH volunteers; spiritual gifts and opportunities of aging; and an inventory of issues, concerns and opportunities. All are welcome.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, February 26, 5p

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

Every Sunday

- 9:15a Multigenerational **worship**
- 9:30a Multigenerational **First Day School**
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:30a **Childcare (0-8 years old)**: attenders may exit the meetingroom when they so choose to attend childcare.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse