



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

June 2015

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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607-229-9500

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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

Children and the Life of the Meeting

During the Summer of 2014, the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) Committee came to the conclusion that children could be better integrated into the life of the Meeting than they had been in recent years. This was the result of a number of converging issues. The most striking was an English Quaker paper, entitled "Opening Minds", that we obtained from Blair Jennings. Another was the processing of the results of a Quaker workshop that CALM had arranged on April 13, 2013 called, "Cultivating Quakers: Discerning our Meeting's Responsibility to our Children."

The thinking was that children should be directly involved in the community of Quakers if they were to become Quakers. The question was how could we redefine the Meeting so that children were more intimately involved? If this were done successfully, the need for the CALM committee would wither away; CALM would become merged with Ministry and Worship.

During the late Summer of 2014, we were led to develop an intergenerational meeting instead of a First Day School. We thought this would take place from 9:15am – 10:15am and would be programmed to keep the attention of kids. We thought we would have a planning meeting each month to decide who was going to take responsibility for each meeting. We hoped that the mix of planners would include the children in the meeting as well as the adults. Indeed, several people outside the CALM committee were very involved in making these intergenerational programs and planning meetings happen, including Nancy Riffer and Wallace Watson. Both kinds of meetings took place from September 2014 to January 2015 and were generally well attended. Typically there were 10 to 15 people and sometimes more with at least 3 or 4 children.

For various reasons, however, the intergenerational meetings did not work out:

1. Once or twice a month, the intergenerational meeting collided with events put on by the program committee.
2. It was difficult getting a wide range of people to organize programs.
3. Some children could not attend because their families could not commit to coming so early.
4. It was difficult for families to attend at 9:30 and then again at 10:30.
5. CALM lost members and had become a committee of 3 members. We had no formal mechanism for childcare for the 10:30am Meeting for Worship. Informally, two of the CALM members (Ed and Fred) became that childcare, in addition to attending and helping to maintain the organization of the intergenerational meeting.

By January 2015, the CALM committee was exhausted from trying to make the intergenerational meeting work. At the same time, there were parents who wanted to have First Day School available during the 10:30 Meeting for Worship and who were willing to help incorporate a new First Day School. These parents developed a teaching schedule among them and we restarted the First Day School (FDS).

CALM, continued on page 2

CALM, continued from page 1

Since January, several Members and Attenders of the Meeting have volunteered to serve as First Day School teachers focused on children ages 8-12, although all children are invited to participate (younger children may also play with our regular babysitter and teens are invited to join the Power Quakers group which meets once a month and is led by Janis Kelly). The children in the group have generally been in grades 2-6 and have been members of several families who attend Meeting regularly. Newcomers are always welcome.

For the January-June time period, the FDS program has focused on one of the Quaker testimonies each month: January-Simplicity; February-Peace, March-Integrity, April-Community, May-Equality, and June-Stewardship. Every Sunday, there is one lead teacher and one assistant teacher. The lead teacher is responsible for planning the session and any related activities. Thus far, activities have included discussions of Quaker history, presentations using "Godly Play" pedagogy, games, Bible and secular stories, a short play, and much more. The children in FDS are asked to report on their activities during the "Afterthoughts" portion of Meeting for Worship.

First Day School will continue in this fashion through the end of June. In July and August, we offer our regular First Day School teachers a break and ask other adults in the Meeting to be Friendly Adult Presences with the young people each Sunday (childcare is still provided for children under 8). The summer agenda for our young people focuses on play, especially at the playground, and simple projects if the adults feel called to offer something. Summer is a time when we all pitch in to care for the children of the Meeting; please consider signing up! The sign-up sheet will be available every Sunday beginning May 31. FDS will resume in a structured fashion in September.

Over the summer, CALM plans to hold a retreat for committee members during

which it will discuss plans for FDS and other activities in the next school year. CALM is also planning a multigenerational camping retreat at the Hector Meeting house to which all members/attenders of the Meeting are invited. This will be the evening of Friday, August 28 through Meeting for Worship and brunch on Sunday, August 30th.

CALM welcomes the feedback of families of the Meeting and hopes that our Meeting can work together to serve all our needs. If you have any questions or feedback, please share them with Melissa Blake, who is the clerk of the committee, or any CALM member.

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.

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Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc. ES14909																			
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Health Care is a Human Right

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.

— Rev. Martin Luther King

The Problem. The private health insurance industry puts unchecked corporate greed before human need – profits over patients. Private insurers waste vast sums of premium dollars on billing, marketing, and CEO salaries; 1/3 of premium dollars is not spent on healthcare. Unnecessary paperwork for doctors and hospitals waste hundreds of billions of dollars more each year, and takes time away from patients.

Even after the Affordable Care Act, 3 million New York residents lack health insurance, and millions more have plans that would bankrupt them when faced with a medical emergency. Every day, five New Yorkers die needlessly due to lack of health coverage. If you have decent health insurance, chances are you have been forced to cover more of the cost every year, while having to wait for the insurance company to approve tests and procedures, or having to fight denials and limitations.

The Solution. New York Health is a state bill, A.5062 (Gottfried) / S.3525 (Perkins) that would set up a universal single-payer healthcare system in New York state similar to an expanded Medicare plan or the Canadian system. All New Yorkers would automatically have their healthcare covered by a public statewide fund, regardless of age, employment, or financial means. Everyone would have access to healthcare the way everyone has access to the fire department, libraries, and schools – public services provided without ever having to worry about a bill.

What services are covered under New York Health? It will fully cover all medically necessary services: comprehensive outpatient and inpatient medical care, primary and preventive care, prescription drugs, laboratory tests, mental health, reproductive health, rehabilitation, dental, vision, hearing, and medical supply costs.

Too good to be true? How would it be funded? There would be a large risk pool including all residents of New York, and it would be paid for fairly. Today, insurance companies set the same high premiums, deductibles, and co-pays, whether it's for a CEO or a receptionist. New York Health would replace this regressive system with

a progressive taxation system. It would be funded by payroll assessments (tax) and assessments on non-payroll income (dividends, capital gains, and interest). These assessments would be graduated according to income, reducing the burden on the sick, the poor, and the middle class.

Single payer plan can cut taxes. New York Health offers the rare opportunity for progressive Democrats and conservative Republicans to agree. There is no stronger measure New York could take to cut our property taxes than to pass this bill into law. Hidden health care costs are present in every product, good or service in our economy. For example, health care adds an estimated \$2000 to \$4000 to the price of every car built in the United States. For taxpayers, we have an enormous hidden health care “tax” in our property taxes. This comes from three separate bills from the city, the county, and the school district. (Darius Shahinfar, Albany City Treasurer)

In addition, New York Health would end the requirement for local social services districts to pay part of the cost of Medicaid, replacing those payments with revenue from the assessments under the New York Health revenue proposal. This simultaneously terminates county Medicaid payments while providing Medicaid beneficiaries (and everyone else!) with better, more comprehensive coverage.

Now that we have the Affordable Care Act, why do we need Single Payer? The fundamental problem remains: We have an employer-based healthcare system that is largely at the mercy of big insurance companies. The goal of the ACA was to cover more of the uninsured, many of whom have limited means. More Americans have insurance now, but a rise in cost sharing (premiums, deductibles, co-payments) means fewer can use it. The issue for many families is that the policies with affordable premiums may have co-payments that are difficult for them to meet.

In the US, 22% of people now say the cost of getting care has led them to delay treatment for a serious condition. That's the highest percentage since Gallup started asking in 2001. Another poll found that

A Dialogue of Love

*You will find a greater ease of body,
when you do not press to continue each task
to conclusion.*

*Let there be unfinished work.
It is safe in God!*

Return to it, again and again.

This is an important premise.

*When you find housework or people
or the phone prevents you from fully
completing your “morning of prayer”
– you are upset.*

*See now that each task is part of that
prayer.*

*Each voice, each act, does not take you
from prayer.*

*It is only your own attitude
which removes your prayerfulness.*

*In your present weakness
it is especially important to see
the wholeness, even holiness,
of parts of work.*

*Quietly with faithfulness do each part –
and all else that is unfinished
is simply lifted up to wait in God.*

*It is not a heavy weight of obligation:
this unfinished work.*

*Let the small part you worked upon
give you happy attentiveness to God.*

You are beloved . . .

— Sparrow



Healthcare, continued on page 4

June 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 (June 13, 2010)

IMM approved a proposed minute from the Earthcare Witness Committee the Meeting would “use the general Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Integrity, Peace, Community, and Equality as the basis for discerning how to be stewards of all property in our use &/or care.” The Committee also presented several advices and queries related to the minute.

Chuck Mohler was added to the Development Committee and Tony Serviente to the Project Management Committee for renovation work on the Third Street Meeting House. Trustees were approved to use the Meetinghouse Fund to pay the costs associated with the design and demolition phases of the work related to renovation of the facility.

Nancy Hillegas was welcomed into IMM upon transfer of her membership from the Wilmington, DE Monthly Meeting.

IMM approved M&W’s recommendation that members and non-members be considered equal participants in considering matters that come before the monthly meeting for business. Concern was expressed that Friends not lose sight of the meaning and importance of formal membership, and that non-members should be encouraged to consider the value of membership.

20 Years Ago (June 12, 1995)

IMM approved the recommendation of M&O (now M&W) that Janice Kelley and Ellie Rosenberg be married under the care of the

Meeting. Their marriage oversight committee of Melody Johnson, Bonnie Tyler, Carol Kimball, and Lynn Grove was also approved.

25 Years Ago (June 11, 1990)

IMM approved Trustees recommendations for a statement of request to the Cornell University library concerning the storage of Ned Burt’s writings and papers and access to them. The need for guidelines was heightened by a request from Frank Moriarty, Univ. of Adelaide, Australia, who planned to make Ned’s work the subject of his doctoral dissertation. Frank had visited with Friends here in Ithaca.

35 Years Ago (June 9, 1980)

Certificates of transfer were received for Mike Simkin and Helen Schantz and both were welcomed into membership of IMM. Mike was also IMM clerk, having shared the clerking the previous month with Harrop Freeman, outgoing clerk.

65 Years Ago (June 12, 1950)

Gunther Wicke, the German student from Stuttgart, who came to Cornell for a year of schooling under sponsorship of the Meeting, expressed his appreciation at the end of his year in Ithaca in a moving way. He felt that the experience had been a valuable one for him both in friendship and in work. Although Friends’ ways were not known to him before he came to Ithaca, he promised to try to find ways of meeting whatever comes in accordance with Friends’ principles. The Meeting feels it has been enriched by Gunther’s presence and wished him Godspeed.

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Healthcare, continued from page 3

as many as 16 million adults with chronic conditions have avoided the doctor because of out-of-pocket costs.

The ACA still leaves insurance companies in charge — with rising premiums, high deductibles and co-pays, and restricted provider networks and out-of-network charges. We all pay more because we are paying for insurance company profits, administrative costs, marketing, and multi-million dollar CEO salaries.

What can you do? Educate yourself about New York Health. Raise awareness by talking with your friends, colleagues, and family. Encourage your state representatives to vote for New York Health A.5062 (Gottfried) / S.3525 (Perkins). Join the Finger Lakes New York Health campaign by contacting Carolyn Kenyon.

The new Assembly Speaker, Carl Heastie, has agreed to bring the bill to the floor for a vote this session. A summary and the full

text of the bill can be found at www.nyh-campaign.org. Additional information can be found at www.pnhp.org Physicians for National Health Care, and www.singlepayernewyork.org.

— Carolyn Kenyon for Social Justice and Peace Witness Committee

Meadowsweet Farm

Barb and Steve Smith of Meadowsweet Farm in Lodi are looking for one person or a couple to help grow food for the Lodi food pantry. Barb and Steve have a Jersey cows from which they sell raw milk.

They will trade the garden work for room and board in a separate small house. No experience is necessary. The time commitment for this arrangement is negotiable.

If anyone is interested in this farming experience, the Smith phone number is (607) 582-6954. Also take a look at the family website at www.meadowsweetfarm.com

— Connie Thomas for Barb Smith

Reminder To Friends Using the Meetinghouse:

The door has been found unlocked on more than one occasion in recent weeks. Please ensure that, when you leave the meetinghouse, you lock the door behind you and check all windows. Even if you think another group is still using the building, go ahead and lock up after yourself and allow the next group to do the same.

Thank you.

— Third Street Meetinghouse Committee

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, May 10, 2015

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 5.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 10, 2015. At 12:25 pm, thirteen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel and Fell Cadwallader who were holding the Meeting in the Light.

Clerk read from Thomas R. Kelly's *Reality of the Spiritual World and the Gathered Meeting*:

When our souls are utterly swept through and overturned by God's invading love, we suddenly find ourselves in the midst of a wholly new relationship with some of our fellowmen. We find ourselves enmeshed with some people in amazing bonds of love and nearness and togetherness of soul, such as we never knew before. In glad amazement we ask ourselves: What is this startling new bondedness in love which I feel with those who are down in the same centre of life? Can this amazing experience of togetherness in love be what men have called fellowship? Can this be the love which bound together the Early Church, and made their meals together into a sacrament of love? Is this internal impulse which I feel, to share with those who are down in the same centre of love, the reason that the Early Church members shared their outward goods as a symbol of the experienced internal sharing of the love and the love of Christ? Can this new bondedness in love be the meaning of being in the Kingdom of God?...Into this fellowship of souls at the centre we simply emerge.

2015 5.2 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC). Gina Varrichio reported on behalf of the TSMC. At the July 2013 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting approved a plan jointly proposed by Ministry and Worship, Children and the Life of the Meeting, and Third Street Meetinghouse Committee to replace the classroom doors on the second floor of the Meetinghouse with glass-paneled doors. This was proposed as a safety measure for the children and adults who use these upstairs spaces. As of 2015, this measure is also recommended by our insurance provider. Carl Peterson has volunteered to guide the finishing and installation of the new doors, with the help of other TSMC members, and the work could be completed this summer.

Friends reflected on the desire for "transparency" upstairs. Friends approved the purchase and installation of glass-paneled safety doors for the four main upstairs classrooms over the meeting room. Payment for the doors would use up the remaining budget for Phase III projects, and the remaining balance would come out of the TSMH Repair fund. @

The TSMC proposed minor revisions to the committee's charge, most notably removing reference to the "Children's Garden

Committee" and including reference to legal requirements relating to the meetinghouse. Friends approved the following charge:

- 1) oversee the care and maintenance of the meetinghouse and meetinghouse grounds,
- 2) be responsible for inspections, code maintenance, and legal requirements of the building,
- 3) schedule the use of the building, and
- 4) coordinate with Trustees on issues affecting the property value and/or legal or tax status of the building. @

2015 5.3 Ministry & Worship (M&W). Chuck Mohler and Marilyn Ray reported on behalf of M&W.

- 1) Chuck briefly described M&W's extended study regarding the amplification of voices. Marilyn added that a personal directional microphone/amplifier set was donated to the Meeting and has been tested by several Friends, who found it satisfactory. The committee recommends that three additional personal directional microphone/amplifier sets be purchased, at a cost of approximately \$200 each, to assist hearing impaired members and attendees to hear better in Meeting for Worship and other meeting events. The devices would be available for Friends to borrow from Greeters at the beginning of meeting for worship and returned at the end. Mike Simkin, treasurer, recommended that the purchase could be funded by moving the required funds from the General Fund Reserve to the TSMH Phase III fund. Friends approved the purchase of the devices.
- 2) M&W further recommend that the handheld microphone continue to be used for announcements after meeting for worship for another six months. We have noted that the noise level rises as time passes after the close of worship, and we also feel that the reports by children from First Day School will be heard better if they are amplified. M&W invites comments regarding the continued use of the microphone. @
- 3) Chuck reported that the transfer of Karen Reixach's membership from Rochester Monthly Meeting to Ithaca Monthly Meeting has been completed. Friends received the report and rejoiced to welcome Karen to Ithaca Monthly Meeting.
- 4) Chuck reported that the committee for clearness for membership of Gary Rith has met. It consisted of Marilyn Ray (convener), Alexa Yesukevich, Mike Simkin, and Joanne Sturgeon. The committee enthusiastically recommends that Gary be accepted into membership. Friends approved Gary's membership, and rejoiced to welcome Gary to Ithaca Monthly Meeting. @
- 5) Chuck reported that Meeting for Worship will be held at the Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road each Sunday from June 7th through at least September. Meeting time at Hector will be 10:00am. @
- 6) Marilyn read a draft of the 2014 Ithaca Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report. Friends offered some correc-

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Minutes continued from page 5

tions, suggested minor editorial revisions, and appreciated the overall tone and spirit of the report. Friends approved the report. It will be shared with New York Yearly Meeting. @

2015 5.4 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin began the Treasurer's report by offering to send a printed copy of his report to any who are interested. He reported that we in a solid financial condition with about \$94,000 in the bank. The Gail Donnen White Scholarship fund has a balance of about \$2600. Phase I and II Meetinghouse Funds are still about \$3400 in deficit, but donations are still coming in. At this point, our annual donation receipts are 18% of requested budget for the 2015. Friends received the report. @

2015 5.5 Other concerns. A Friend, having missed Meeting for Worship last week, noted that she was not aware that a Friend had been in a car accident. Pastoral Care will be advised of the concern that there might be another mechanism for communicating about the well-being of Friends. @

Thirteen Friends settled into worship at 1:25 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on June 14, 2015.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marin Clarkberg*

Upcoming Events

Work Days at the Meetinghouse

The **month of June** will hold a few short work days for specific projects at the meetinghouse, including window washing, gardening, touching up floors, and hanging the new doors. As the dates for these events are decided, someone will send these opportunities out to the listserv. Keep your eyes open!

— *Third Street Meetinghouse Committee*

Northside Community Celebration

The Second Annual community celebration will be at the Third Street Meetinghouse on **August 8th**, from 3 to 6 pm. There will be music, dancing, food, and children's activities. Volunteers needed!

— *Karent Friedeborn*

Memorial Meeting for Mac Larsen

The Memoria Meeting for longtime Friend Mac Larsen will be at the Hector Meetinghouse in July, perhaps on the 17th. More information will be available in the June newsletter, but Friends can contact Antonia Saxon, Clerk, with questions.

June 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Work Day at the Burtt House Saturday, June 13, 10a-2p

Come enjoy fresh homemade muffins, good company, and help beautify the Burtt House! We will be working outside, weather permitting. Bring garden tools and work gloves if you have some. Come for one hour or stay longer. All ages and abilities are welcome; no help turned away. If you want more information about what projects we are working on, please call, Brian or Violet, Friends-in-Residence, at 607-379-2379 or email at BurttHouseIthaca@gmail.com. No RSVP necessary- but doing so helps in planning projects- and ensures enough treats for all.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, June 14, Rise of Meeting

Join in the Quaker decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday. (Note that this Meeting is scheduled for Mother's Day this year. No workable alternative dates could be found.)

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, June 28, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, June 25, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:45a **First Day School** attenders exit the meetingroom and join their classes upstairs.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burtt House, 227 N. Willard Way
- Sun 1:00p **Friends Bike Clinic** at the Meetinghouse; You bring your bike and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We bring tools and know-how.