



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2016

## IMM CONTACTS

[ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850  
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### Clerk:

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### Treasurer:

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### Ministry & Worship:

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### Pastoral Care:

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### Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Violet Goncarovs & Brian Parks •  
[BurtHouse@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:BurtHouse@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)  
607-273-5421 • 607-379-2379 (cell)

### Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

[IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu](mailto:IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu)

with message body as simply: `join`

### Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others 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](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)

## A "Click" in the Meeting Room: A Quiet Signal

In accordance with a suggestion the meeting received, Ministry and Worship has obtained two or three small "cricket" clickers. Some meetings have tried these as an alternative to asking very quiet speakers to speak up. We have several folks in the meeting with various degrees of hearing loss. It can be difficult to ask people over and over to speak more loudly, and it's hard to do when you feel that you're disrupting the proceedings. This way, a quick "click" can be a way of signalling to the speaker that they should speak out. The clickers will be kept in the drawer of the small cabinet where the hearing assistance devices live. If you have trouble hearing, please take one as you enter the meeting room -- even if you don't use the hearing assistance devices.

This is a provisional measure. We'll try it out for several months to see how it works and then reevaluate. Let a member of Ministry and Worship know if you have any experiences with the clickers that you'd like them to know about.

— *Ministry and Worship: Chuck Mohler, Annalisa Raymer,  
John Lewis, Alexa Yesukevich, Antonia Saxon*

## Spring Gathering

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting invites Friends young and old (and neither young nor old) to join us for the 2016 Spring Gathering, May 13-15, at Watson Homestead Retreat Center in New York's Southern Tier.

Friends may register online: <http://bit.ly/SpringGathering2016>

Our theme this year is *White Privilege: What it means to us as faithful members of the Religious Society of Friends*. Our plenary speakers will be Jeff Hitchcock and Charley Flint. Together, they will guide us through our history of white-centeredness and invite us to open ourselves and our meetings to the beloved community. The intent of our time with Jeff and Charley goes beyond historical accounting and identifying responsibility, and strives to actively engage participants in exploring our role and our faithfulness as Friends, as it relates to this subject.

Watch for both printable and online registration on the IMM listserv. For more information, contact a member of the Spring Gathering Planning Committee: Gina Varrichio, Marilyn Ray, or Karen Reixach.

## Mini Retreat for Young Adults at the Burt House, Saturday April 16

"Searching for sanity in an insane world: Can our Quaker tools help?"

with Gabi Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary of NYYM

The pace of the world is staggering. It can feel impossible to keep up. Social Media, school, work, families, chores, food shopping, the list is fast and furious. And then there's Quakerism and the advice to be "in the world but not of the world." Are the ways of Early Friends outdated? Do they apply? Even faith practices can feel like just one more thing to do. Who has time?

*Retreat, continued on page 2*

*Retreat, continued from page 1*

In this one-day workshop with NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary Gabi Savory Bailey, we will look at our history and practices, our Quaker tools, as well as our own personal experiences. What are they? How can they help us? How can we support each other and hold ourselves accountable even through the madness that the world imposes on our lives?

Join us at the Burt House, 227 Williard Way in Ithaca, at 9:15am. Spend the day worshipping, in fellowship, eating, and making time for ourselves in this busy world. We will end by 5pm.

Suggested donation is \$15-20 to cover expenses and food. But pay what you want/can. There will be child care with at least a week notice. If you need hospitality, please let Gabi know. [nyym.yafs@gmail.com](mailto:nyym.yafs@gmail.com).

See the brochure: <https://goo.gl/Gy4Rcc>

And register: <https://goo.gl/forms/21IiOUSOTd>

Please contact Gabi at [nyym.yafs@gmail.com](mailto:nyym.yafs@gmail.com) with any questions.

— *Lenora Schneller*

## Invitation to Participate with IMM Young People

Would you enjoy spending some time with, and getting to know, the kids who are part of IMM? What an opportunity to engage, easily, across the generations! Although we haven't had many attending First Day School this past year, those who do come are such an incredible joy to be with. CALM wants to share that rich experience with adults who might want it. We are not looking for "teachers." It is more as Powell House describes FDS: a "friendly adult presence." No weekly or monthly commitment is needed.

If you want to try out having a little time with our kids, the only cost to you would be missing one Meeting for Worship. They might want to go over to the park, or get your help in building a great fort upstairs, or bake cookies, or play a board game, or plant a garden. In following their lead, with at least one more adult there as well, you'd have a chance to *be* with them in any activity they'd choose or you'd suggest. If you are interested, or want to hear more, please contact Melissa Blake, Clerk of CALM: [melissablake2010@gmail.com](mailto:melissablake2010@gmail.com), 379-4297.

— *Melissa Blake, Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM)*

## Discuss Faith and Contemplation of the Cosmos

Alexa Yesukevich and Wallace Watson will co-coordinate a discussion on Sunday, April 19th at 9am. Our contemplation of the physical universe is enhanced by the findings of modern astronomers, who now largely agree that the universe began with a Big Bang a little more than 13 billion years ago; is rapidly expanding; and contains billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars, most of which are circled by planets—some of which likely hold life forms that we can only imagine.

How do such experiences and knowledge affect our religious faith? Do we feel, with the Psalmist: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (19:1)? Does the philosopher Bertrand Russell express our own gloomiest thoughts about the physical universe: "Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way"? Can we take comfort in the views of Quaker astronomer Jocelyn Bell Burnell: "The God that I experience is a loving, caring, enabling God . . . But as an astronomer, I do not believe in a God who was the prime creator of the universe"?

Materials will be available on the table in the Meeting House entry hall and on the IMM email site starting April 2.

## Feed My Starving Children: Ithaca MobilePack

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian organization which welcomes any and all people to help, so that any and all people might eat.

The next food packing event is scheduled for September 22, 23, and 24, 2016 at the First Congregational Church in Ithaca. I am planning to reserve a group time for anyone 5 and up to go together and participate. Stay tuned for more info on that closer to September.

Until then, there are three important ways you can help:

- Donate to the Ithaca MobilePack so that we will have the financial resources to pack 300,000 meals this year. We need about \$66,000 in donations to pay for the meals. Donations can be made through our website at [www.ithacamobilepack.org](http://www.ithacamobilepack.org) or by sending a check to Ithaca MobilePack, PO Box 265, Ithaca, NY 14851
- Help to spread the word about the Mobile Pack by participating in our MobilePack T-Shirt Days! We invite everyone who has packed to wear your MobilePack t-shirt on April 1, May 1, and during the Ithaca Festival Parade and Festival Days, June 3-5. If you don't have a t-shirt, but would like one, the new ones are in! Send us an email at [ithacamobilepack@gmail.com](mailto:ithacamobilepack@gmail.com) and we will make arrangements for you to get one! Adult shirts are \$15, youth are \$10. They are red this year!
- Shop at the Charity Yard and Bake Sale that the LDS Church (114 Burleigh Drive) is hosting on June 18 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. They will have tons of treasures and all proceeds go to benefit the MobilePack. If you have things that you would like to donate, that would be great too. You can contact Kayleen at [kayleen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kayleen@twcny.rr.com) for more information.

In the coming months we hope you will talk to your friends and neighbors, members of your faith community, and colleagues at work and workout buddies at the gym about the MobilePack! Tell the story of Feed My Starving Children, invite others to join you, and start getting people excited to help in this incredibly worthy cause!

— *Gina Varrichio*

## April in IMM History

### 5 Years Ago (April 17, 2011)

The first Meeting for Worship at the Third Street Meetinghouse was held on April 10 and the first Meeting for Business was held there on April 17.

It was clarified by IMM Trustees and minuted that IMM has clear title to the Hector Meetinghouse and property.

Faith and Elijah deCastro were welcomed into membership of IMM upon request by their parents.

### 15 Years Ago (April 9, 2001)

The Clearness Committee for Marriage recommended that Rebecca Barry and Thomas Dunne be married under care of the Meeting. IMM approved and appointed a marriage oversight committee for the planned marriage in May.

### 20 Years Ago (April 9, 1996)

It was minuted that Friends held a Meeting of remembrance for Ned and Marjorie Burt in gratitude for the gift of their house to IMM.

### 25 Years Ago (April 9, 1991)

The Clearness Committee for marriage recommended and IMM approved the marriage of Wendy Wolfe and Paul Wawrzynek under care of the Meeting.

### 75 Years Ago (April 23, 1941)

Notes from the Annual Meeting, which included a written annual report by Clerk Alfred Wray:

1. After a dinner at Willard Straight Hall and a brief Business Meeting, the program was turned over to Dr. Stevenson, who gave a few remarks on refugee work in unoccupied France before giving a wider lecture afterward at Cornell.
2. A number of changes in Meeting participation were noted as several people had left Ithaca to work with refugees through the AFSC, both across the US and abroad.
3. A committee was set up to advise conscientious objectors but thus far, the government's provision for civilian public service camps through the historic peace churches had met this need.

### 80 Years Ago (April 14, 1936)

The Annual Meeting this year was preceded by a cafeteria dinner in the South Room of the Home Economics building. About 40 people were present. The Business Meeting opened with silence, after which the Clerk reviewed the highlights and activities of the past year. Officers were then appointed for the coming year: Alfred Wray, Clerk; Sarah Oliver, Treasurer; Nellie Petry, William Wray, and Helen Clark, Program Committee. After the queries were read, the Meeting was turned over to Edith Cope, Chairman of the Program Committee, who introduced the guest speaker, Alton Lindsay. Alton was on the last Byrd expedition to the Antarctic. He related in a most interesting way his experiences and told of some of the valuable information the expedition collected.

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

## History of Attendance at MfWwAtB

Recorded minutes of IMM Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business go back to 1929. However, the number of people present was not reported in the minutes routinely until September 1980, when 22 people were recorded as present.

I had been curious as to how attendance at Meetings for Business has changed over the past 35 years for which we have data, and what factors seem to be associated with those changes. For a broad overview, I analyzed average attendance at business meetings by five-year intervals, displayed below. The table shows average attendance and include any called Meetings as well as regular Monthly Meetings.

1981-85	1986-90	1991-95	1996-2000	2001-05	2006-10	2011-15
25	14	13	14	21	20	18

The average attendance was highest in the earliest time period for which we have data. The size of the local Meeting community in 1986 was only about two-thirds of the current size, based on Meeting directories, and the State of the Meeting report for 1983 indicated growth in the Meeting over the past year (no directories from the early 1980s are available). There were some issues of note from 1981-85 such as dispersal of the Oliver estate and developing a policy for use of the funds, and the Sanctuary movement began in mid-1984, which initially was somewhat controversial, but business meetings in which these items were discussed had normal attendance for that time. The only factor I can think of that was different then was that business meetings during that period were held in the One World Room of Anabel Taylor Hall on the second Monday evening, and were preceded by a dish-to-pass supper. Seemingly both that venue and time were less convenient than our current set-up at Third Street. However, the One World Room was not only very large, with a number of round tables that could accommodate Meeting families, it also had a large institutional kitchen where food could be warmed before serving. Moreover, at the conclusion of eating, the room was partitioned and child care was provided in the other section of the room while business meeting occurred. This setup provided warm fellowship for all who came, including multigenerational fellowship. A number of families with children attended regularly.

From June 1986 through 2001, with only a few exceptions, usually Annual Meetings at Anabel Taylor Hall, business meetings were held at the Burt House. Folding chairs placed throughout the living room offered sufficient space for business meeting attenders, but dinners were not held and child care space was more limited. These factors along with limited parking were probably associated with decreased attendance. Starting in 2002, business meetings were moved to the café at Anabel Taylor and held after Meeting for Worship. Average monthly attendance increased from 15 in 2001 to 25 in 2002. Business meetings during the academic year were held thereafter in Anabel Taylor until the Third Street meetinghouse was completed in 2011; during the summer business meetings were held at the Hector Meeting House.

Attendance continued on page 4

Attendance, continued from page 3

IMMRSF was incorporated in 2003. In all but one year afterward, the largest attendance each year for regular business meetings occurred in January for our Annual Meeting. Average attendance at Annual Meeting for 2004 – 2015 was 34. Three Called Meetings during 2009-10 concerning possible new meetinghouses drew larger numbers than the Annual Meeting; the largest attracted 47 Friends.

— Tom Brown, *Historian*

## Remembering Elspeth Rhodin

We will gather for Elspeth Rhodin's memorial Meeting for worship on Sunday, May 1, at the Hector Meetinghouse at 12:30 pm. We will have a time for fellowship and refreshments after the memorial.

Many of Elspeth's family will be coming for the memorial. If you have room in your home where some of them could stay, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke [BJQMohlke@gmail.com / 220-3219]

For those who will not be able to attend and would like to share their thoughts or memories with the family please share them at [www.elspethrhodin.com](http://www.elspethrhodin.com) or mail them to Elspeth Rhodin, 32 Lincoln St, Lexington, MA, 02421. If you have a photograph to share or a longer message please send them to [photo@elspethrhodin.com](mailto:photo@elspethrhodin.com) so they may make their way to this page.

## NYYM Clerk's Letter from the Coordinating Committee Weekend

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Dear Friends,

New York Yearly Meeting's coordinating committees met in January at Powell House. I visualize the four coordinating committees as sturdy legs of a table, supporting work that ranges from prison ministry to financial transparency to great programs for children and teens at Yearly Meeting sessions.

The coordinating committees hear reports from the committees under their care—yes, leave it to Quakers to have committees to coordinate committees. If you'd like more information, visit the yearly meeting's web page for its committees. But in the grassroots way that small and large meetings across the yearly meeting manage to be both particular to themselves and related to one another, the coordinating committee structure works.

I sat in on a report on Moral Mondays in Albany and heard moving testimony on these vigils. Sara Niccoli, mentioned in a post on Moral Mondays, is a member of Perry City Monthly Meeting: [blogs.nysut.org/blog/2014/03/20/moral-mondays-call-for-a-fair-new-york/](http://blogs.nysut.org/blog/2014/03/20/moral-mondays-call-for-a-fair-new-york/). Regina Haag also participates. As we worked, we soaked up every bit of Ann Davidson's warm hospitality, knowing she is retiring soon as Powell House Director, and we were delighted to welcome Regina and her husband Dennis as soon-to-be Directors.

We heard a request for funds to help support the Quaker party planned by the Young Adult Concerns Committee as outreach to young adult friends throughout the Yearly Meeting and beyond. Check it out! [nnyym.org/?q=YoungAdultFriendsParty2016](http://nnyym.org/?q=YoungAdultFriendsParty2016)

The committee that is blessed with the opportunity to read the 2015 State of the Meeting reports now arriving from monthly meetings reported on their work. It may seem at times that the State of the Meeting reports disappear into the ether, but they are read by real people with hearts and minds moved by what they

read and working hard to write from them a report that will go out as our State of Society. You may find your meeting's concerns shared and mirrored in last year's State of Society report: [nnyym.org/?q=State-of-Society\\_2014](http://nnyym.org/?q=State-of-Society_2014).

Much work was done—I have mentioned only a small fraction. But there was also time for sitting around the fire and sharing Instagram photos of the trip six NYYM members made to Peru for Friends World Committee for Consultation ([fwcc.world/](http://fwcc.world/)). And we had time for reflection in small groups about what it was like to be busy in this way, away from our monthly meetings. For some of the Friends gathered it is a sacrifice, for some a gift of growth and deepening in service, for some it is hard to tell the difference. Some wish for a way to be more grounded in their monthly meetings, some wish their monthly meetings knew more about their work on Yearly Meeting committees. Some Friends from small meetings feel strengthened by the presence of the forty or so people gathered in worship, others by the sense of connection to Friends engaged in active witness.

There is a sense that there is more work to be done than hands to do it, but there is also a sense that God is using us well.

A member of my meeting used to joke that he didn't belong to any organized religion. Because it is flexible and open to continuing revelation our structure may not look like a typical organization chart, but coordinating committee weekend is evidence that our independent, thoughtful souls are housed in a structure that fosters deep listening for the movement of Spirit. Watch Spark and [www.nnyym.org](http://www.nnyym.org) for information on how to register for spring sessions, April 1 – 3, where business arising from the coordinating committees will come before the gathered body of New York Yearly Meeting.

*In peace,*

— Lucinda Antrim, Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting

## Excerpts from "Love Story"

— *Marybelen Snyder, as printed in Friends Journal, March 2016*

I have become increasingly deaf since moving to Fairfax County, Virginia, in 2004.... I purchased state-of-the-art hearing aids. Eventually, I supplemented those with a Williams Sound system of microphone-plus-headphones....

But in my Friends meeting at large, I had grown increasingly isolated.... Each year I was becoming more resigned to very little participation in our corporate body.

“Does anyone belong to a faith community where everyone can hear everything when the community gathers?” I asked this question in a group of non-Quaker colleagues at one of our regular Tuesday meetings. “I do,” said Pam, beaming.

What I remember about Pam’s response is that she used the word “lovingly” at least three times.... When there is any sort of meeting or group interaction in the sanctuary, people take turns being in charge of lovingly handing the mic to the person who wishes to speak. Anyone who has trouble hearing wears a headset that is connected to the sound system.

I passed [the information about this system] along to ... our little task force. But it seemed in the weeks that followed that perhaps no effective changes were going to occur....

Many Friends seemed oblivious to my isolation or slightly annoyed when I asked them to speak up, especially when I repeated that request....

[I met with a dear friend] and I asked her if she thought I was asking too much of our meeting to go all out for the inclusion of the most hearing-disabled among us. Could we move past our apparent resistance to solving the problem? Anne’s answer to whether I was being too pushy was a quietly resounding no.

The next day was First Day (in more ways than one)....I don’t know by what magic our meeting so quickly transformed itself. Anne had a microphone in hand. They explained that anyone wishing to speak out of the silence should stand and wait for the mic.

I was not the only person there who felt deep gratitude for this day. The microphone was lovingly brought to each of us who spoke. Not only were the hearing-impaired thereby included, but everyone became more fully connected to the body of all of us. We belonged to each other.

— *Excerpts by Susan Wolf, with thanks to Margaret McCasland*

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	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Cupboard _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	
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 – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b> 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: / /	

## Giving to IMM

Donations from Friends cover the cost of Meeting operations including our building costs, our contributions to New York Yearly Meeting, and our donations.

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the form on the left 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.

## Ask FCNL to Support Justice for Native Peoples

Friends, this is the time of year that Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) asks Friends for feedback on priorities for the coming year. I urge you to consider supporting this as one of FCNL's priorities: We/I urge FCNL to include in its upcoming biennial legislative agenda the specific goal of removing the Doctrine of Discovery from the United States legal framework.

Any size Quaker group can participate in the survey to set the priorities, and individuals can also submit a request. The deadline is April 15th. You can use this online form to submit your support for this priority: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6WDXLSS>

Thank you for considering this. It is long overdue.

— Susan Wolf

## Earth Arts & Crafts Festival April 16

The Earth Arts & Crafts Festival will be held at the Onondaga Nation School [5957 US Rt 20, LaFayette, NY 13084] on Saturday, April 16th from 10 AM to 5 PM. You can enjoy Native American foods and browse among over 40 arts and crafts vendors from all Six Nations plus some artisans from visiting Nations: paintings, jewelry, stone carving, leather work, baskets, and beading. From the Earth Arts & Crafts Festival benefits the Onondaga Nation School Parent Teacher Society which contributes to student needs and class trips. All are welcome.

— Susan Wolf

## Tompkins Learning Partners seeks Tutors

Tutors are needed to work with adults on various educational goals, including but not limited to: learning to read, write and speak English; improve English for work; study for Citizenship; study for high school equivalency (GED/TASC) in subjects such as math, science, social studies, reading and writing; improve reading fluency for family literacy.

Volunteers are asked to make at least a one year's commitment and to meet with their student for at least 2 hours per week. New orientations in April - please contact for dates - registration is required. Contract Shannon Alvord, Adult Basic Education Coordinator for Incarcerated Youth Services: [tlpshannon@gmail.com](mailto:tlpshannon@gmail.com) or 607-277-6442.

## Wanna Buy a Barrel?

The Third Street Meetinghouse is slimming down to a single rotating barrel composter. Would you like to take the other home with you, just in time for spring planting? Email Gina at [zealth\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:zealth_1@yahoo.com) to make an offer.

— Gina Varrichio, for the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee

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*Minutes, continued from page 7*

out conflicts. Friends are reminded to schedule their committee meetings with the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee to minimize space conflicts.

A Friend shared that a wake scheduled at the Meetinghouse on short notice might require bumping Meeting-related events. Friends anticipate that affected events could be moved to the Burt House. Clerk will share this possibility with the Burt House caretakers.

A Friend shared that attendance at First Day School has been low,

but comprised ten young people last week and it was noisier than usual. Friends were asked to be patient with the noise, especially as we know that the noise is a sign of an active, well-attended First Day School. @

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:10 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on April 10, 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk*

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December March 13, 2016**

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Clerk: Antonia Saxon  
Assistant Clerks: Marilyn Ray, John Lewis  
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.)

### 2016 3.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 13, 2016. At 12:20 pm, eighteen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Steve Mohlke who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

*May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.*

Clerk read Psalm 126:

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.*

### 2016 3.2 Ad Hoc Immigrant Support

Garry Thomas from the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support presented a request that a collection basket be put out on the Third Sunday for the next four months for the two funds it administers: the tax-deductible Refugee Fund (that supports for immigrant services programs) and the non-tax deductible Refugee Assistance Fund (that provides supplemental financial support for individuals, such as current Burtt House resident Ambrose Lumanikio Nganyanoko). Friends approved the request.

Contributions of cash and non-specified checks (written to Ithaca Monthly Meeting) added to the basket will be allocated to either the Refugee Assistance Fund or the Refugee Fund by the Ad Hoc Working Group, wherever the need is greater. @

### 2016 3.3 Burtt House Committee report

Shirley Way reported that the Burtt House Committee has rented a Sojourner's Room at the Burtt House to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP-New York) for use as office space during the week for \$150 per month. Shirley Way is the AVP-New York employee who will be using the space. Friends received the report. Clerk added that there is an Ad Hoc Burtt House Committee

thinking about more general issues relating to the Burtt House's future. @

### 2016 3.4 Spring Gathering Committee

Marilyn Ray shared that Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting sees a need for better sound equipment for its gatherings. Marilyn described a proposal that we would loan Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting our sound equipment for two gatherings each year. FSRM intends to supplement our equipment with wireless mikes and a longer speaker cable that they would purchase. While we would not have access to our sound equipment on the days when FSRM is using it, we would be permitted to use the FSRM wireless mikes and cable the rest of the year. Friends approved the request. @

### 2016 3.5 Nominating Committee

Nancy Riffer reported that Nominating Committee nominates Ernest Blake to the Burtt House Committee. Friends approved the nomination. @

### 2016 3.6 Ministry and Worship Committee

Chuck Mohler announced that the Ministry and Worship Committee has received notice of Ruth Yarrow's release from University Friends Meeting in Seattle in accordance with her request for a transfer and reports the transfer of her membership to Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Friends received the report, and joyfully welcome Ruth Yarrow back to IMM. @

### 2016 3.7 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin reported that IMM received a donation of stock in December. That stock was liquidated in January, and IMM also received an additional dividend of about \$40 from that stock in February. The Gail Donnen White scholarship fund and the White Privilege Conference account are both being used to support attendance at the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia later this spring. At this point in the year, we have received 7.2% of our budget donation request. Friends received the report. @

### 2016 3.8 Other Concerns

A Friend noted that there are not yet plans for a sunrise Meeting for Worship this Easter, and suggested that we decide today to have a Meeting for Worship at 6am at the Third Street Meetinghouse on Sunday, March 27th. Plans would include a dish-to-pass brunch after the sunrise Meeting and before our regular 10:30am worship time. Our regular brunch would continue after the 10:30 Meeting for Worship time. Friends will also be invited to spend the night of Saturday, March 26th at the meetinghouse. Friends approved the proposal.

A Friend wondered about how to manage events given that our Program Committee has been laid down. Friends reflected that we have a do-it-yourself process: Friends who have an idea can schedule an event and advertise it themselves. Another Friend shared that our current practices make it difficult to schedule events with-

*Minutes, continued on page 6*

## **"This Changes Everything," April 21, Cinemapolis**

One of the most important movies of our time, *This Changes Everything* is based on Naomi Klein's book on the economic causes of climate change. Tabling in the lobby at 6pm, movie at 7pm, and discussion 8:30 to 9pm. Discussants include: Irene Weiser of Fossil Free Tompkins; Chris Trudeau of Ebike Ithaca; Gay Nicholson of Sustainable Tompkins and Earth Day Ithaca; and Margaret McCasland, Interfaith Climate Action Network and Ithaca Quaker Earthcare.

## **Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon**

"We call on the teacher within" to restore us in mind & heart, body & spirit through gentle movement and centered breathing. Renewed, we move outward to bring wholeness to our world. Check with Nancy Gabriel for questions, 339-7123 call or text; or just come; no special gear required.

# **April 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, April 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.

## **Young Adult Friends Dinner Friday, April 15, 6:30p**

Join us for our monthly dinner gathering for young adults (roughly 18-35, but no one's counting!) at the Burrth House, 227 Willard Way. Bring food to share if you have time, or just bring yourself. We're moving our second-Thursday dinner gathering to Friday this month so Gabi Bailey can join us before her Saturday mini retreat for Young Adults. For more information, contact Lenora Schneller, ls258@cornell.edu, or go to <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends>

## **Young Adult Friends Retreat with Gabi Bailey Saturday, April 16, 9:15a - 5p**

See page 1 for more information about this all day retreat at the Burrth House. To register: <https://goo.gl/forms/21IiOUSOTd>

## **Faith and Contemplation of the Cosmos Sunday, April 17, 9a**

Alexa Yesukevich and Wallace Watson will co-coordinate discussion, following viewing of a few astronomical slides and reading of brief quotations circulated in advance. See page 2 for more.

## **Aging Resources Consultation & Help (ARCH) Sunday, April 17, Rise of Meeting**

The last of this year's ARCH discussion series will focus on what support is available in Tompkins County for people who choose to stay in their own home as they age. All are welcome, whether or not you have joined us in previous months. A light lunch will be provided.

### **On Sundays**

- 10:20a **First Day School** gathers upstairs at Third Street.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a **First Day School** attenders enter the meetingroom for intergenerational Meeting for Worship.

## **Springtime Tea at the Dunham's Saturday, April 23, 3-6p**

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite Friends to their annual tea at their house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. Please don't bring anything! Stop by for a cup of tea, a snack or just conversation. Drop in for a short visit or stay longer. All are welcome!

## **Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, April 24, Rise of Meeting**

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

## **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, April 27, 5p**

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

## **Last Friday Supper Friday, April 29, 6p**

The soup continues! Bring a salad or bread or leftovers from Jade Garden or the rest of your lunch or a bag of chocolate chips that you meant to make into cookies but didn't have time to. A big pot of soup will be provided; don't worry if you're leaving work and don't have time to pick anything up. Just come.

## **Memorial Meeting for Elspeth Rhodin Sunday, May 1, 12:30p**

Gathering at the Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road. Please see page 4 for further information, and if you can provide hospitality for out of town guests.

### **Other Weekly IMM Events**

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burrth House, 227 N. Willard Way