



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

December 2016

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:
IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu
with message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others 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

Worship in the Wake of the Election: A Message from New England Yearly Meeting

November 9, 2016

As we gathered for our weekly worship this morning, we held all of you in prayer. From that worship, we feel led to write to you with a message of love, encouragement and support.

In the aftermath of this week's election, many who are grieving, angry, fearful and isolated are likely to seek refuge and solace in Friends meetings across our region, this Sunday and in the coming weeks. While Friends can't offer all the answers to those who join us in worship, we can offer them spiritual hospitality—a place where they can experience listening, connection, accompaniment and love. This is a simple and powerful action we can all take in the coming days to lift up a witness to the Light.

Below are some suggestions we hope you'll consider as you prepare for worship this Sunday:

In our meetings for worship

Many of us who worship together often are also in need of refuge. We respond to stress differently; some may be more able to serve in this way right now than others. Let's take care of one another, even as we offer hospitality to new visitors. It may help for those who share the care of worship to communicate in advance to ensure that some Friends who are more able to be available are ready to close worship, speak with visitors, or be open to pastoral care needs.

Worship in the Wake, continued on page 2

Giving for Real Change

— Karen Friedeborn

After the election, I could not get off the couch for a day. I just sat there catatonic, watching the news cycles over and over feeling disbelief and frankly, feeling betrayed by the American people. Always the Pollyanna, I really believed that there would be this huge refutation at the polls of Trump's hate speech, misogyny, and call for violence. I was wrong. The next day I gave a generous donation to ACLU. That made me feel a little better. It was something I could do. I guess I was not alone in that action since ACLU announced that they received over \$5 million in donations in the first week after the election. I also gave to Planned Parenthood in honor of Mike Pence. I learned that this kind of donating has a name: "rage donating." It felt empowering, but is it enough? It feels like a band-aid solution, like putting the proverbial finger in the dike for the next four years. Hopefully, it will slow backsliding of human rights in this country, something critical under these circumstances, but it will not move us forward. What else can be done? What can we as Quakers do? As the world as we know it in this country seems to be crumbling around us, what do we want to take it's place?

Giving for Real Change, continued on page 2

At the rise of meeting, even a simple invitation for those attending to turn to their neighbor and share briefly what is on their heart might be profoundly helpful. Parents of young children may particularly benefit from connecting with one another as they support their kids. Consider whether newcomers who express an interest might be invited to connect with groups in the meeting working to address racism, strengthen interfaith relationships, or address community needs. This can be an important way of helping them continue to find support, purpose and nourishment.

In our surrounding communities

Remember that because of the climate of fear and hostility fed by this election, many who have been explicitly targeted in the campaign—including People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, Muslims, immigrants and people with disabilities—may feel particularly unsafe, excluded or afraid.

More than ever, we encourage Friends to look for opportunities to publicly identify our meetings as places of refuge and sanctuary for our neighbors who might feel under threat. Posting and publicizing commitments to oppose racism, homophobia, Islamophobia and gender-based violence will be more important than ever. Look for opportunities for Friends to partner with and accompany marginalized communities. Participate in ecumenical, interfaith and community events promoting unity, connection, dialogue and mutual respect, and opposing hate and division.

Stay connected with your wider Quaker network

Share information about upcoming events, as well as news, images, reflections and ideas from your worship, witness and community-building efforts. Your work will encourage and enliven the work of others.

Remember that we and many others are holding you in prayer, and that you are not alone.

In the Love that binds us together as a community of faith and witness,

—Anna, Beth, Frederick, Gretchen, Hilary,
Kathleen, Nia, Sara and Noah
New England Yearly Meeting Staff

As Friends, we are called to let our lives speak every day. We lay upon ourselves the responsibility to live by the Spirit of Love and Truth in each of us. How can we live our Quaker values today to bring about justice and reconciliation as a beloved community? I have been reading about our Quaker ancestors for inspiration and lessons learned. Individual Friends Paul Cuffe, John Woolman and Sarah Grimke inspire me because of their personal courage and willingness to stand up in the face of danger to speak their truth. We desperately need these role models now that we are called to speak our truth in these tumultuous times. In my reading I was also reminded that while we Quakers are known as abolitionists and fighters for social justice in society, we have never been successful in welcoming African Americans and other people of color into the Religious Society of Friends. Our Society of Friends in the U.S remains uncomfortably white. Sixty-eight years ago, Bernard Walton, Secretary of Friends General Conference said he knew only 7 people of African decent out of the 17,000 FGC affiliated members (McDaniel and Jule); these numbers have not changed much today. Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Jule in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, point out that “addressing this insidious and complex racism among Quakers of yesterday and today is the path toward a racially inclusive community.” Until we examine the policies, procedures and our culture, inclusiveness will not happen and our relationships will not change.

It is my belief that Friends are being called once again to play a significant role in this very crucial time in U.S history. But we should learn from the past and not repeat it. How do we examine our institutional policies and practices, not to mention our Quaker culture to root out racism? I know that often the racism is not obvious to me as a white person. The majority

of Friends are white, middle class and college educated. Our Quaker culture in many ways is now indistinguishable from white American culture. If the very things we need to change are invisible to us, how do we become more inclusive and welcoming?

There is now an opportunity as a Society to examine our behavior and change it. that has never existed before. At the October 9th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Ithaca Monthly Meeting embraced the leading for a Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) at the Burr House. The Center, with a Coordinating Committee comprised of Friends of color and their allies, will help us develop a multi-cultural lens in which we can view the Religious Society of Friends. The Center will model an organizational structure that “de-centers whiteness” and amplifies the voices of Friends of Color. Our meeting will have an opportunity to learn how to be welcoming to all.

The Center will make policy recommendations that address the impact of institutional racism on the Religious Society of Friends and consult with local and yearly meetings that want to become more welcoming and inclusive. It will provide a refuge for worshipful sharing and healing from internalized racism. The Friends Center for Racial Justice will help us raise the veil of whiteness so we can shine the light of Truth upon ourselves and in the process change the world.

I encourage you to join me in making a generous financial contribution to support the Friends Center for Racial Justice. I cannot think of a better way to overcome the barriers that divide us and strengthen the Religious Society of Friends.

To give to the Friends Center for Racial Justice, write a check to Ithaca Monthly Meeting with “FCRJ” in the memo line. Mail the check to Mike Simkin, Treasurer, 3137 Jacksonville Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886.

The Pluses and Minuses of the 2017 Budget

We on the Finance Committee thought it might be helpful to give early information for considering the budget requests for 2017. No one was extravagant in their requests, but there are some substantial changes. These are due, primarily, to the realities of maintaining and running the Third Street Meeting house. The fees charged to IMM for TSMH for various inspections have risen substantially and result in needing to acknowledge a cost of \$3000 per year whereas for 2016 \$800 was budgeted.

Specific information will be available at Meeting for Business on Dec 11, 2017, but, the following will give people a “heads up” of what can be expected so that you will have time to think over the changes.

On the income side we decided that we can budget more for income for TSMH:	+ \$ 600.00
NYYM has requested an additional contribution:	+ \$ 500.00
Witness programs will increase by: including the consolidation of the Peace Witness and Social Justice committees. In addition, there may be a request to breakout the monies to AVP programs.	+ \$ 325.00
Nature will see a decrease in spending:	- \$ 550.00
Administration & Property, a decrease:	- \$ 290.00
Burt House stays the same overall:	\$ 0.00
Hector Meeting has an increase:	+ \$ 250.00
TSMH increases:	+ \$ 4,900.00

The result is an increase in the amount of donations required to meet these expenses by 8.5%. More detailed information will be available on December 11 for the Meeting for Business presentation. We hope this information will be helpful.

— Nancy Hillegas for the Finance Committee

Help Dress A Girl Around the World

Starting in December, join sewers and crafters every Wednesday in the Chapman room of St Johns Church from noon to 2:00 p.m. to help make simple-but-beautiful dresses for vulnerable girls suffering from extreme poverty throughout the world. We also welcome sewers to form their own groups and extend this invitation to other community groups such as churches, community living or activity centers, scouting troops, etc.

The official dress drop-off dates are February 11th from 4-6pm and February 12th from noon - 2pm in the Parish House at St. John's Church.

Since 2008, Dress A Girl Around The World has provided more than 500,000 dresses to girls in 82 different countries. How many more do you think we'll add from this effort? Join us and find out!

For more information, contact Mindy Oakes at nyoakes@ymail.com (note it is Ymail, not Gmail). To learn more about Dress A Girl and to download ideas and patterns, visit www.dressagir-laroundtheworld.com.

December in IMM History

10 Years Ago (December 6, 2006)

After hearing reports the Design and Financial planning committees with respect to building a new meetinghouse on the Route 79 property, and referring to a report given the past month by the Coordinating Committee, Clerk Beth Jolles asked if Friends present had any leadings or comments concerning a new meetinghouse. Friends spoke out of the silence. Several felt that a minute of process would be useful to our moving forward. Antonia Saxon, Steve Mohlke, and Melaine-Claire Mallison agreed to send out a request for submissions from Friends, which Antonia and Steve would collect, keeping the clerk informed of their progress.

15 Years Ago (December 9, 2001)

Elizabeth Schneider was welcomed into membership of IMM upon transfer from Staten Island Executive Meeting. Irena Nakri Rosenberg was welcomed into associate membership in the Meeting upon request of her parents. [Note: Children accepted into membership now have full membership in IMM via minute of June 12, 2016.]

20 Years Ago (December 9, 1996)

IMM warmly approved and M&O recommendation for the marriage of Antonia Saxon and John Levine. The marriage is scheduled for December 31 at the Burt House.

55 Years Ago (December 10, 1961)

IMM approved a contribution of \$10 per month toward a community rehabilitation program in Dacca, Pakistan, aimed at improving the educational level of children in an impoverished class. The program was sponsored by AFSC and run largely by the British Friends Service Committee.

65 Years Ago (December 8, 1951)

Stemming from a concern about a bill for universal military training likely to come before Congress in the coming year and how to show that concern and opposition, two Friends engaged in an “extremely heated argument,” each professing to represent the position of the Society of Friends. The two opposing positions as summarized by the Recording Clerk were:

1. The Society of Friends as a group should concern itself with matters of the Spirit and should have nothing to do with politics or other secular affairs. The Meeting for Worship should be the only concern of Friends.
2. The Society of Friends as a group should find ways of carrying out its concerns in any area of life, for worship and action are inseparable and independent.

After a Program Committee report, the clerk closed the Meeting with the first Query relating to the spirit in which meetings for worship and business are conducted.

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian

Childcare Transitions

Our faithful childcare provider of the past several years, Cierra Barnes, is moving on. She will be leaving Ithaca for an internship in January and until then is spending time with her extended family. Until the end of the year, Elsa Mohlke and other Meeting members will be filling in to take care of children under age 8 during Meeting for Worship and MFW with Attention to Business. CALM is actively searching for a permanent replacement for Cierra, whose gentle, positive nature made her beloved by our children. She will be hard to replace!

We will update you with news of her successor.

Reminders for Parents from CALM

CALM (the Children and the Life of the Meeting Committee) exists to serve the children and families of our Meeting by managing our First Day School and childcare. If you are a parent, we have some important reminders for you!

First of all, you should know that the Meeting provides supervision for young people every Sunday: for children under 8 it's childcare and for 8 and up it's First Day School when school is in session and First Day Play during school breaks, including summer.

Times of supervision are always 10:20am to 12 noon. Please strive to drop your child upstairs between 10:20am and 10:30am. Late arrivals can be disruptive to the First Day School program. The children will usually enter the Meeting Room around 11:15 and stay through the "afterthoughts;" after that they are welcome to return upstairs for a short time with the First Day School and childcare staff. At noon, we ask you to take charge of supervising your child in the Meetinghouse so those adults can clean up and be free to leave by 12:15pm. If your child gets out toys or other items after 12:00pm, please take responsibility for putting them away.

You should also know that you can request childcare during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Requests should now go to Sarah Saxon. Her phone number is (607)345-6465.

For childcare during other Meeting events or committee meetings, you are welcome to contact Sarah *or* hire your own babysitter and let us know; we will happily get you reimbursed!

If you have other questions, please don't hesitate to ask a member of the CALM Committee.

— *Melissa Blake, Clerk of CALM*

Online Quaker Study

Friends General Conference (a national association of Quakers) is offering an online course on deepening spirituality for new Quakers and those who have been active for a long time. It is for 8 weeks from Jan. 9 - March 3. Materials are available online and participation is asynchronous (that is, you can participate on your own schedule -- there are no activities that require you to be present at a particular time). The cost is "pay as you are led" with a suggested donation of \$20; some people will pay more than that and some will pay less. For more details, read the link below.

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/spiritual-deepening/frequently-asked-questions-about-spiritual-deepening-program-online>

Upcoming Events at the Burt House

Things are afoot at the Burt House. First, please note new mid-day, mid-week gatherings on the calendar, page 6. These events are co-sponsored by the Friends Center for Racial Justice, and will begin at 12:30 with a reading selected by Anglea Hopkins followed by silent waiting worship. Friends may wish to stay for conversation and a simple lunch of soup and bread.

We are experimenting with these two sessions in December and intend to continue in January. If you are interested in participating but are not able to come on Wednesdays or on these particular dates, please contact Nancy Riffer. We are hopeful that this gathering may grow to include members of the Ithaca community. It would be a way to introduce new people to our form of worship and to provide an opportunity for courageous conversations.

Coming in the new year, we are looking forward to Dinner, Study and Reflection: On Building Community. These may include readings from:

Martin Luther King Jr.

Henri Nouwen

Howard Thurman

Jean Vanier

We are also looking forward to opportunities around:

Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow

Conversations about Racism among Friends

NYYM European American Quakers Working to End Racism Committee.

Reflections from The Quakers and Native Americans

Conference: NYYM Indian Affairs Committee

Solitary Confinement: NYYM Prisons Committee

Allyship: White privilege — creating a Multiracial, Multicultural Center by de-centering whiteness.

Even more is under discussion. Join us!

— *Anglea Hopkins*

Yoga in the Azores with Dreia Spies!

April 9th-16th 2017

Friends, consider joining this special retreat in the Azores, an archipelago in the mid-Atlantic. The pace of life on the islands is quiet and slow, allowing for time to breath deeply and meditate on the beauty of the place. Sao Miguel island offers a breathtakingly beautiful landscape, and is ideal for hiking, birding, diving, whale watching, etc.

The cost for this one week yoga event will be \$800, and it includes room at the Guest House in Faial de Terra, two freshly prepared meals a day (breakfast and dinner), two yoga classes a day (12 classes total), and more.

Contract Dreia for more information, or contact Nicole Stumpf, co-leader, at stumpfyoga@gmail.com or 973-769-2739 to sign up!

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, November 13, 2016

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 11.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 13, 2016. At 12:10 pm, fifteen Friends settled into worship.

Clerk read a description of George Fox written by William Penn:

He had an extraordinary gift in opening the Scriptures. He would go to the marrow of things and show the mind, harmony and fulfilling of them with much plainness and to great comfort and edification.... But above all he excelled in prayer. The inwardness and weight of his spirit, the reverence and solemnity of his address and behavior, and the fewness and fullness of his words have often struck even strangers with admiration, as they used to reach others with consolation. The most awful, living, reverent frame I ever felt or beheld, I must say, was his in prayer. And truly it was a testimony that he knew and lived nearer to the Lord than other men; for they that know him most will see most reason to approach him with reverence and fear.

Clerk reviewed the agenda.

2016 11.2 Nominating Committee

John Lewis from the Nominating Committee reported that Nancy Riffer and Karen Friedeborn have been nominated to serve on the Burt House Committee. Friends approved the nominations. @

2016 11.3 Ministry and Worship

Chuck Mohler from Ministry and Worship reported that we have a letter from Annaliese Truame requesting release from her membership in our Meeting. Friends received this report. @

2016 11.4 Peace Witness Committee and Social Justice Committee

Garry Thomas reported that the Peace Witness and Social Justice committees have been meeting together for some time, although they are formally two, separate committees. They would like to consolidate and become one committee, and relatedly, to consolidate their budget lines.

First, however, Garry presented some requests from the existing committees. Following our Meeting's budgeting guidelines, \$500 from each committee's budget goes to external organizations with the larger Meeting's approval. Garry proposed that \$300 from the Peace Witness committee go to an organization called "Roots" that is based in the West Bank and is dedicated to reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. He also proposed that \$200 from Peace Witness and \$100 from Social Justice go to an orga-

nization called "Women Wage Peace," also working in Israel and Palestine. He further proposed that the remaining \$400 from the Social Justice committee be split between the Ultimate Re-entry Opportunity (URO) to aid the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals, and the College Initiative Upstate, a college aid program managed through OAR for recently released individuals. Friends approved the budget requests. @

Garry also reported that the committees are distributing their discretionary budgets as follows. Peace Witness is giving \$200 to AVP (Alternatives to Violence) International and \$300 to the Afghan Women's Fund. The Social Justice Committee is giving \$100 to the Paul Schruers Memorial Program, \$200 to the Prison Action Network, and \$200 to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Friends received the report. @

Garry then presented the proposal that the two committees be joined, in recognition of both the small number of individuals involved and the considerable overlap in the areas of interest. The proposed committee would be known as the Peace and Social Justice Committee. The groups further propose that the two budget lines be joined. Friends approved the consolidation of the committees and the consolidation of their budget lines.

Friends discussed how the budgeting process for this committee's financial donations works now and how it might work in the future. @

2016 11.5 Treasurers Report

Mike Simkin presented the treasurer's report and distributed printed copies of the balance sheet to all present. Among the items he highlighted was the balance in the scholarships funds. A portion of these funds is being targeted for our youth to attend a Powell House workshop in the next school year. Mike further highlighted that at the end of October, we had received 52% of our annual donation request; our fiscal year closes in December. A few typographical errors were brought to the Treasurer's attention. A member of the Finance Committee highlighted the differences in the responsibilities of the Treasurer and those of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee holds responsibility for budgeting, while the Treasurer handles financial transactions that occur within the approved budget. Budget items exceeding \$3000 must be approved by Trustees.

While a 2017 draft budget was not presented as planned, it was shared that the current draft implies roughly a 9% increase in the annual budget. Finance Committee is continuing to work on the budget proposal. @

2016 11.6 Closing

Nineteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:25 pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on December 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg

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

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. Laughter likely. No experience or equipment needed. Just come, or if you have questions ask Nancy Gabriel (339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu.) We offer a donation to the teacher.

Voices Multicultural Chorus Winter Concert Saturday, December 10, 1-3p

Joined by "Bob Keefe and the Surf Renegades," the Chorus will showcase music illustrating the cultural and social significance of the world's rivers. Hear beautiful songs from Argentina, China, the Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and of course the US. We'll turn it up a notch with a bit of Tina Turner, Billy Joel, and Bob Dylan. Advance tickets are \$12, and are available from chorus members or at <http://riversoflife.brownpapertickets.com/>

December 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Mid-day Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesday, December 7, 12:30p

The Burt House and the Friends Center for Racial Justice invite F/ friends to worship. We will begin with a reading selected by Angela Hopkins and then settle into silent waiting worship for approximately 20 minutes. You are invited to stay for conversation and a simple lunch of soup and bread. The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.

ARCH Holiday Social Friday, December 9, 2-4p

Friends 60 and older are invited to a holiday social gathering at the Third Street Meetinghouse. We'll have refreshments and Christmas music. We hope you can join us!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, December 11, Rise of Meeting

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

Mid-day Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesday, December 14, 12:30p

See description for December 7th gathering.

Experiences at Standing Rock Thursday, December 15, 7p

Michael Blake, son of IMM Attender Ernest Blake, traveled to Standing Rock, North Dakota to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline in late November and is going again in early December. He will speak about what is occurring out there, make reference to the spiritual aspects of the non-violent activism, and answer any questions people have.

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18, Meeting for Worship

The pageant will unfold during the latter half of our Meeting for Worship time. Families are especially encouraged to attend that day so children can participate in this IMM Christmas tradition. And even if you've seen the pageant many times, you won't want to miss it this year when it will take on a special twist!

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, December 18, Rise of Meeting

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

Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesday, December 21, 6:30p, 7:30p

Meeting for Healing led by Dreia Spies at 6:30, followed by Meeting for Worship at 7:30p. The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.

Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship Saturday, December 24, 7-8p

The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, December 29, 5p

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

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.

Coming in January

- Women's Fellowship will begin again, starting Friday, January 6th at 7pm. Join us at Ithaca Bakery.
- Death Cafe—a gathering for tea, cake and discussion of death—will be Saturday, January 7th, from 2-4p.