



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2017

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

Newsletter

Submit contributions to clarkberg@cornell.edu. See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

The Beloved Community

Angela Hopkins will be leading a class and conversation about what it is to be a beloved community and how we live into that aspiration. We will be exploring the lives and ideas of four individuals deeply involved in developing Spirit-led communities. This class is foundational to the work of Friends Committee on Racial Justice (FCRJ). We will be learning ways to come fully into relationship with each other in our racial justice work. The class starts in April.

This class is based in the works and experiences of Jean Vanier, Henri Nouwen, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Howard Thurman. Each of these men sought to live into the meaning of the Gospel. For each, community was central to his journey. Jean Vanier formed the L'Arche communities out of his experience of living with individuals with intellectual disabilities as peers, each bringing their gift to the group. Henri Nouwen was a pastoral theologian with many books and experience teaching at Yale and Harvard Divinity Schools; he was drawn into the authenticity of the communities Vanier had founded and lived as a member of a L'Arche community for the last 10 years of his life.

Dr. King's beloved community is based in radical love that finds non-violent ways to resolve conflict and create global human decency. His vision for community was for people living together and for the global community. Howard Thurman was a college chaplain, a mystic, and a theologian. He was a prolific writer. One form his work for community took was founding the first interracial congregation in the United States.

Two sessions of this class have formed: Wednesday 10am to noon and Thursday 2:15 to 4:15 pm. They meet on the first and third Wednesday or Thursday of the month. Classes are almost full. Please contact Angela (see left sidebar) to see if there is an opening in a class for you. The classes are currently made up of Friends. We anticipate visiting with another group studying the same four authors. Later we hope to bring in members of the Catholic and African American communities.

— Nancy Riffer

Quakers Reject the Politics of Division: Letter from NYYM

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide.

The day after the election, a supporter of President Trump said in an interview, "For years we have been told we were nothing, that we did not matter. And now, we are America." Sadly, this sentiment articulates the tragic reality that in a nation so divided, only one side or the other gets to be America, and those who felt marginalized and disregarded now feel empowered and compelled to marginalize and disregard.

Regrettably, the current administration has not relinquished the rhetoric of division which propelled Mr. Trump into the White House. It has, instead, forcefully acted on it, scapegoating whole segments of our society, exercising a politics of division, fear, and exclusion. In this climate it is hard to live out Jesus' commandment that we love one another, and yet that is what we must do.

Politics, continued on page 2

Politics, continued from page 1

In the short time since assuming power, this administration has created and passed executive orders to deport all undocumented immigrants, acting on election promises but ignoring the fact that many of those who are without documents are deeply woven into the fabric of our society, doing hard manual labor in our dairy parlors, our slaughterhouses, our farm fields, doing domestic work and child care in our homes — work too demanding, and at pay too low, for most US citizens to want to do it. Many of the people at risk of being deported have children who are US citizens. Others came to this country fleeing poverty and/or grave risk of bodily harm. Sending them back will put many of them back in harm's way. Undocumented immigrants are a part of us, and excising them from the body politic will do incalculable harm to our society as a whole.

Our President has signed a 90-day ban on residents from seven Muslim-majority nations, in order to subject them to “extreme vetting,” clearly stating that Christians from those nations will be expedited in this process. Many of those detained had already been vetted for two to five years. Some are legal US citizens, holding dual citizenship or having been born in this country. Many critics have commented that this order is not about safety, but about exclusion. The message seems clear: even if they are US citizens, Muslims are a danger, Christians are not. The night after this executive order was enacted, someone set fire to a mosque in Texas, perhaps responding to that implicit message.

News of a law being prepared which will allow discrimination against LGBT people on the grounds of preserving the religious freedom of those doing the discriminating has been circulating for some weeks. Many fear for the erosion of the civil rights of these members of our community. And if it is legal to discriminate against one group of Americans, it is no large step to then discriminate against others.

The President's refusal to acknowledge the validity of multiple studies documenting the overwhelming absence of voter fraud and his insistence on a substantial investigation into states that rejected his candidacy has been taken by many as laying the groundwork to justify enacting national voter ID laws. These laws would disproportionately affect people of color and the poor, excluding them from the body politic.

Quakers Support a Politics of Understanding

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide. We echo the words spoken by early Quaker Margaret Fell to the King of England in 1660: “We are a people, that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity. It is our desire that other's feet may walk in the same.”

For over 350 years, it has been our practice to seek common ground, to hear the truth in the words of the person with whom we disagree, to seek the way forward which both encompasses and undergirds the apparent contradictions of opposing views. We have sought to understand, and to lovingly reason with those with whom we disagree. We have sought to live out our commitment to peace not just in our refusal to bear arms, but also in our refusal to engage in the spiritual violence of meeting others with hatred and fear. We recognize that many issues in public life are complex

and that simple truths are tempting, but usually incomplete. We seek the patience necessary to live into the fuller picture which is satisfactory to all, rather than to jump at solutions which offer immediate relief, but which precipitate problem after problem after problem, which must then be resolved.

We Reject the politics of division, pitting one group of Americans against another, enacted in laws and regulations which make these actions legal, but still immoral and unjust. The heart, soul, and essence of the Judeo-Christian tradition is the spiritual mandate to welcome the stranger. This core theme of the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and generations of witness by Friends is so fundamental to how our tradition has experienced God's directive to us, that we cannot ignore it and remain faithful. Jesus reminded us that we cannot love God without also loving our neighbor, and that that neighbor might at first appear alien to us, unfamiliar, not “of our tribe.” That is the person we are commanded to love.

We Envision an American society which welcomes all willing to live peaceably in this great experiment of democracy, in a society that does not pit brother against brother, sister against sister, for political gain. We envision an American society where all receive due process under the law, where all have equal access to justice, where all have equal opportunity to prosper, where all have equal rights regardless of their wealth, their race, their religion, their sexual orientation, or their gender. That vision lives out, makes real, the truth that we know, that there is a spark of the Divine in each and every person, and that we are therefore all beloved children of God, all equal in God's sight.

We Repent the ways we have excluded others from our own fellowship, the ways in which we ourselves have seen and treated people as “other,” as “not of our tribe.” We have isolated ourselves into enclaves of like-minded people, and consciously and unconsciously excluded those who might be a part of us, whose differences would challenge us, but also enrich us. We are the poorer for it, and this must change. Confident in our own views, in large part we have not sought out those with whom we disagree to be in fruitful conversation. We have sought to first be understood, rather than to understand. We have hardened our hearts, and thereby joined in the politics of division.

We Commit to doing all in our power to stand against the politics of division, wherever we encounter it, whether that be in our civil society, or in our own fellowship, or in our own hearts. We commit to facing where we have held people as “other,” including the members of this administration, and commit to seeing them as our brothers and sisters. And we commit to resisting the efforts of those who engage in the practice of division, dressed in whatever legal garb, religion or political party, to dehumanize, disempower, or diminish our fellow Americans and the citizens of this earth we call home. We commit to the demanding spiritual discipline of working to hold open this space of acceptance and deep listening to those different from us, knowing that there is that of God in all, and to grounding our resistance in genuine love for those whose views and actions we are called to oppose.

In Faith,

— *Lucinda Antrim, Presiding Clerk, and Christopher Sammond, General Secretary, New York Yearly Meeting*

Silence

Silence is the night they said
Silence is speechless cowardly fear
they said
Silence is a hateful stare
they said

Sometimes,
I say.

Sometimes silence is a sweet hush in the cool fall night,
just out of the reach of the melodic strains from inside.

Sometimes silence is the protester before the tank, David
before his Goliath...
words can add nothing.

Sometimes silence is a mother's gentle watching gaze
words too small to say.

Silence is what's left over, beneath:
clear, stirring notes of emotion.

— *Thea Clarkberg*

For more poetry, please visit theasforest.blogspot.com and subscribe via email!

Active Hope

Active Hope is not wishful thinking.

Active Hope is not waiting to be rescued by the Lone Ranger or
by some savior.

Active Hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf
we can act.

We belong to this world.

The web of life is calling us forth at this time.

We've come a long way and are here to play our part.

With Active Hope we realize that there are adventures in store,
strengths to discover, and comrades to link arms with.

Active Hope is a readiness to engage.

Active Hope is a readiness to discover the strengths
in ourselves and in others; a readiness to discover the reasons for
hope

and the occasions for love.

A readiness to discover the size and strength of our hearts,
our own authority, our love for life,

the liveliness of our curiosity,

the unsuspected deep well of patience and diligence,

the keenness of our senses, and our capacity to lead.

None of these can be discovered in an armchair or without risk.

— submitted by Shirley Way,
from "Active Hope" by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone

Greeters Report

At its November 2016 meeting, the Greeters Committee reviewed its current practices and plans, and we now wish to share them with Friends. A member of the committee stands in the entry hall each First Day between 10 and 10:45 a.m. to greet and (as needed) assist members, attenders, and visitors. We indicate the recommended route into the meeting room, give information on child care and First Day School, point out items in the brochure racks (letting Ministry and Worship know when stocks are low), explain expectations for removing shoes or using shoe-cloths in wet weather, etc.

We invite new attenders to fill out temporary name tags and sign the guest book; we ask for contact information if they indicate interest in follow-up contact from the Meeting. We are now using red-bordered temporary nametags for new attenders, so that Friends can make a special effort to greet them. We invite attenders who plan to come regularly to sign up for printed nametags if they don't have them.

We encourage all Friends to wear their nametags each time they attend Meeting, out of consideration for new people and those of us who have difficulty remembering names.

We remain concerned about the appearance of the nametag board and table. To address this problem, we plan to identify nametags of Friends who haven't attended Meeting in a year or more and place them in alphabetical order in an easily seen box, with a sign explaining how attendees can remove them for renewed use. Also, we are looking into the possibility of having a wooden rack (possibly with slots in doors that close) built or purchased and hung on the wall. We anticipate that such a possibility would be brought to Meeting for Business before decisions on this matter are made.

We welcome comments or suggestions about our work and plans. They may be made to any member of the committee: Lynn Podhaski, Carl Peterson, Bronwyn Mohlke, Erica Weiss, Simon St. Laurent, Gary Rith, or Wallace Watson (clerk).

Thank you.

—Wallace Watson, for the Greeters

Invitation to FGC Gathering, July 2-8

You are invited to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering in Niagara Falls, NY from July 2-8. We're expecting over 1,000 Quakers at this annual event.

Registration dates

April 3 - 16 Early registration

April 17 - 23 Registration closed

April 24 Standard registration begins

May 31 Last day to register children birth thru current grade 8

June 10 Last day to register high school participants

Registering during the early registration period gives you the best chance at the workshop of your choice and financial aid.

Touchstone Groups

Does 1,000+ Quakers sound like too many? Consider joining a Touchstone Group. These are worship-sharing groups of roughly eight people that meet daily throughout the week. When registering, choose which time of day you would like to meet and you'll be assigned to a group.

Community Worship

Following New York Yearly Meeting's pilot of Community Worship at 2016 Summer Sessions, we're going to do it at The Gathering. We will start our day worshipping together as a community in family-friendly worship. It will include music, stories, queries, and open worship. It is half an hour and intended for absolutely everyone! Join us in being community together, creating ripples, experiencing Spirit moving amongst us.

Pre Gathering Events

Three pre-gathering events are offered this year.

- Adult Young Friends Retreat
- Retreat for People of Color & Their Families
- Seeking Joy as Quaker Business People

For more information, see the FGC Gathering website: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

We hope to see you there!

— *Katrina McQuail, Canadian Yearly Meeting and Steve Mohlke, New York Yearly Meeting, Co-Clerks Friends General Conference Gathering 2017*

Invitation to Spring Gathering, May 19-21

Mystics and activists can come together to co-create the Beloved Community and ensure that *all* people are safe. Please join us for Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering, a week-end of workshops, worship, fellowship and activities, May 19-21, 2017 at the Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY.

Our penary speaker will be Lucy Duncan from American Friends Service Committee. Her talk is titled, "Sanctuary Everywhere."

Workshops include

- Christopher Sammond, New York Yearly Meeting: "Welcoming 'the Other' in Ourselves, Our Meetings, and the World"
- Lucy Duncan, AFSC: "Quaker Social Change Ministry", "Bystander Interventions"
- Buffy Curtis, Liseli Haines: "Lessons from Standing Rock"
- Angela Hopkins: "Cross-Pollination: The Charge of the Interracial Justice Center"
- Barbara Spring: "Prisoners Age, Too!" (ARCH and prisoners)

Plus, enjoy the Rock Wall Tower and the swimming pool! Quality youth program! (with assistance from Chris deRoller & Mike Clark, Powell House; Melinda Wenner Bradley, NYYM Children and Youth Field Secretary and Emily Provance, NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary)

Register by April 28

Friends are welcome to pay as they are able. For registration info, <https://goo.gl/J89v4H>

Love Thy Friend:

providing pastoral care in all kinds of weather

Prepare to better serve your meeting community as a pastoral caregiver. We will consider care for Friends who are home bound, hospitalized, terminally ill, newly bereaved or grieving. And we'll explore approaches to helping troubled or disruptive members, or those with mental health problems. This workshop will provide skill-building and experience-sharing opportunities, guidelines, and other resources. Participants may expect to leave the workshop feeling empowered and better prepared to minister to individual Friends, and thereby support the Spiritual health of their meeting communities.

Bruce Heckman

May 12-14, 2017



Bruce E. Heckman, M. Div., PhD., is a recently retired Hospice Chaplain, and a long-time member of Pastoral Care and Ministry committees in the Yellow Springs (Ohio) Friends Meeting. He provides counseling and psychotherapy in private practice, and is a former Clinical Director of an addictions treatment center. He has worked in college counseling centers at Illinois State, Illinois Wesleyan, and the University of Texas at Austin. He has led workshops at FGC Gatherings, and is a member of Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Register by April 30th: \$230 adults, \$115 ages 13-22, \$58.00 infants, & \$165 commuters
After April 30th: \$250/125/63/185

Childcare with 3 weeks notice

Register @ www.powellhouse.org, info@powellhouse.org or 518.794.8811

Paid position for experienced driver

Round trip transportation is needed for Nick Sturgeon between 240 Du Bois Road, Ithaca to Ridge Road (34B), Lansing from 11:45 to 2:15 on Wednesdays. Nick, who has Parkinson's disease, is participating in a class developed in Indiana especially for Parkinson's patients. The exercise class is called "Rock Steady Boxing" and was a feature on CBS "60 Minutes". If you have this time free, please email Joanne Sturgeon, jharpa@gmail.com.

Help with food and beverage

The Friends Center for Racial Justice food organizer, Pat Pingel, is looking for volunteers to help with food and beverage setup and clean-up for upcoming events. A few helping hands will lighten the task and make it fun. Much of the food will be provided by others. If we have a small set-up team, we can rotate for various events, some of which will be at the Burt House, and some at the Meetinghouse. Please contact Pat if you are willing to help, even if only occasionally: pingpatr@cs.com; 610-763-4087. Thanks!

A special opportunity for Quaker teenagers

Do you like adventure or raising questions and discussion?

If so, the *Out the Nest, Into the World, a Quaker Coming of Age Program* may be for you. This is a mentoring program that pairs members of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of Friends with teens ages 15 to 17 to explore the role of Quakerism in their lives before moving out into the world. During monthly discussions with a mentor, teens will increase their understanding of Quaker values, practice, and faith. With the mentor they will plan a service project in another country or a different part of the US. In addition, there are opportunities to experience Quaker process and use a Clearness Committee.

Later in April we will have an informational meeting about the *Out of the Nest, Into the World* program. If you have the slightest interest in this or think you might be interested in the future, contact Carolyn Kenyon, new Coordinator of *Out of the Nest* at clkenyon09@gmail.com. The date and time for the meeting will be determined by what is best for those who are interested.

Help Margaret McCasland make a difficult move

I currently live on RT 34 in South Lansing, in a drafty old farmhouse with far too many stairs for my arthritic joints to manage. I am thrilled to be moving into a accessible first floor apartment at Linderman Creek on Route 79 just west of Ithaca on May 1. However there are several significant challenges I face, some beyond my control, many related to life choices I have made.

Physical limitations. I was born with a connective tissue disorder known as Ehlers-Danlos Type 3. The primary trait is hypermobile joints, and most of my joints have developed arthritis. A back injury in 1984, typical of people with EDS-3, has been especially problematic. The bottom line is that I have limited stamina, and carrying loads—especially on stairs—is very difficult.

Money. My working life has been series of meaningful and interesting projects, but most of them paid no pension, and some did not even make Social Security contributions (back when "women's work" wasn't valued, non-profits did not have to pay into the Social Security system). Thus my monthly income keeps me at the official poverty level. The bottom line is that I can't afford to hire hourly help as I prepare for my move.

Stuff. All those interesting jobs have left me with a plethora of books and papers and educational props. I was also the executor of my parents' estate and ended up with everything I was unable to sort and pass on before we sold their house. I have been getting advice and emotional support from f/Friends in Meeting on how to decide what to keep and what to let go, but there is still more stuff at my apartment than I want to take with me. The bottom line is that I can use help carting away donations, packing what I am keeping, and staffing a tag sale April 21 & 22.

Final Challenge. I am not very good at asking for help. Worship sessions locally and at Yearly Meeting have made it easier for me to feel part of a Beloved Community, and so I am asking f/Friends and family within and outside IMM to assist me with this move.

Solutions

1. **A web site.** I created a community on the Lotsa Helping Hands web site so you can sign up for the tasks of your choosing at mutually convenient times! Examples include dropping off donations, helping pack books or dishes, staffing a moving sale, loading and then unloading the rental truck, etc.
2. **A moving sale.** I am having a tag sale, both inside and outside the house, on Friday and Saturday April 21 & 22. People who help pack, etc, will have first dibs on items at reduced prices. Many items will be "free to a good home."

There will also be a "Friends & Family" pre-sale Thursday the 20th from 4-8 pm, and you are all invited. 1893-A East Shore Drive (Rt 34, 5 miles north of Stewart Park). The house is an old farm house painted gold with white trim (ignore Google maps; it sends you to the apartment houses next door.)

To sign up to help, please go to <lotsahelpinghands.com> and enter "Margaret's Accessible Move" as the community name.

Thanks to all who are giving moral and/or logistical support. It is all appreciated.

— Margaret McCasland

April in IMM History

5 Years Ago (April 15, 2012)

Sue Baker-Carr was welcomed into membership of IMM. Nancy Riffer was also welcomed upon transfer of her membership from Syracuse Monthly Meeting.

10 Years Ago (April 15, 2007)

Beth Jolles reported for the Clearness Committee for Marriage, recommending that Simon St. Laurent and Angelika Rumberger be married under the care of the Meeting. APPROVED. The committee recommended a Committee of Oversight for the marriage, scheduled for May 19 at the Hector Meetinghouse.

IMM approved the following minute brought by Elizabeth Schneider for the Peace Witness Committee: "IMM supports the Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting Conscience and War Committee's initiative, called a Movement of Conscience. When a young person wants to establish himself or herself as a conscientious objector, he or she must develop a file to assert clearly to the U.S. government his or her beliefs regarding opposition to war. Because the Conscience and War Committee believes that conscientious objection is a lifelong journey, they are encouraging adults to develop such a file. This process would help each F/friend clearly think out his or her beliefs, how those beliefs were formed, and how those beliefs are demonstrated in life. Creating such a file may be only a first step for some F/friends who wish to present their files to political representatives in support of a peace tax fund."

20 Years Ago (April 14, 1997)

Dick Crepeau was approved as the new clerk of IMM, taking over from Ruth Yarrow, who was moving to Seattle.

50 Years Ago (April 10, 1967)

Thor Rhodin, Young Friends Advisor, reported that there were 250 to 300 people at the Easter Peace Bridge pilgrimage in Buffalo, 50 of whom were from Ithaca. \$5,000 was taken across the bridge [to Canada] for supplies for medicine, etc. for North and South Vietnam. Some of the Young Friends plan to attend the April 15 mobilization in New York. Another walk across the Peace Bridge is planned for June 18.

75 Years Ago (April 13, 1942)

At the Annual Meeting it was noted that the past year (1941) was the first time that IMM had held weekly Meetings for Worship in the summer.

85 Years Ago (April 19, 1932)

After having dinner at Willard Straight Hall, the Annual Meeting of the Ithaca Association of Friends was convened. After a reading of the Queries and the minutes of the last meeting, a summary of activities of the past year was read. Officers for the following year were appointed: Alfred Wray, Clerk; Grace Mekeel, Treasurer; and Alice White, Nellie Petry, and Arthur Middleton, Program Committee. The remainder of the evening was spent listening to Timothy Mallouf tell of the work of Friends in Ramallah, Palestine, where he had been a student and his parents had taught.

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian

Solitary Man: My Visit to Pelican Bay State Prison

Saturday, April 8 7pm

Join us at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, 306 N Aurora Street, for this performance and discussion to raise awareness of the conditions in solitary confinement, particularly conditions in CA and NY prisons.

Written and performed by Charlie Hinton, *Solitary Man* is based on Charlie's interactions with prisoners in Pelican Bay SHU/solitary confinement, where the largest prisoner hunger strike in history began in July, 2013. In the story, set in November, 2014, Charlie visits Otis Washington, a 64 year old lifer and New York City native who has been locked up since 1975, and at Pelican Bay since it opened in 1989. The show supports the worldwide movement to end mass incarceration and solitary confinement.

A discussion and ways to support the movement will follow the performance. Sponsored by Ultimate Reentry Opportunity, Ithaca SURJ, Cornell Prison Education Program, The Friends Center for Racial Justice (Quakers), and Social Justice Council of First Unitarian Ithaca

Suggestion donation: \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds! Proceeds of this event will support URO, potentially to bring members to a May 2 advocacy day in Albany organized by Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC).

Growth Opportunities for White Allies Workshop

April 21st-23rd, Friday evening to Sunday noon

This weekend-long workshop with Jeff Hitchcock, Judy Meikle, Steve Mohlke, and Pam Wood will provide an opportunity for white Quakers drawn to anti-racism work to engage around the joys, challenges, learning and spiritual grounding that comes with being a white ally. We will explore the queries raised as a result of discussions with Friends of Color at FGC last summer. Bring your questions, your challenges and your open mind.

Jeff Hitchcock is a long time member of the Black Concerns Committee of NYYM and former clerk of the yearly meeting.

Judy Meikle is an educator and spiritual activist committed to racial justice and prison abolition. She is a member of Wilton Monthly Meeting and serves as the Co-Clerk of the New York Yearly Meeting Prisons Committee and Representative to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Steve Mohlke is a member of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting and serves as co-clerk for the 2017 Friends General Conference Gathering.

Pamela Wood is a member of the Prisons Committee, has been active with the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow and has lobbied for an end to solitary confinement in NY State.

The workshop registration of \$40 (or as led) helps support the Friends Center for Racial Justice. Your contribution for food (as led) helps defray food costs for the weekend. Lodging is \$30 per night if staying at the Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burt House.

Questions? Email: registration@fcrj.org

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, February 12, 2016

Clerk: John Lewis
Assistant Clerk: Bronwyn Mohlke
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

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

2017 3.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 12, 2017. At 12:30pm, twenty-one Friends gathered and settled into worship.

"May words of the Spirit be spoken and words of the Spirit be heard."

Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer & Nancy Gabriel who were holding the Meeting in the Light and read the following from *A Brief Account of the Rise and Progress of a People Called Quakers* by William Penn, 1694:

"Let us be careful neither to out-go our guide, nor yet loiter behind [her]; since he that makes haste, may miss [her] way, and [she] that stays behind, lose his guide."

2017 3.2 Friends Committee on National Legislation

Clerk recognized Riley Robinson, Major Gifts Officer for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and invited him to speak about current FCNL activities, staffing and lobbying opportunities. He shared information about FCNL's new capital campaign as well as new and ongoing initiatives. Friends are invited to follow up with Riley directly for more details.

2017 3.3 CALM: Change in Committee Charge – deferred until April '17 MfWwAtoB

2017 3.4 Peace and Social Justice: Working with other faith communities to provide financial support for housing returning citizens from prisons and jails.

Barbara Barry reported on recent activities of the Peace and Social Justice committee related to addressing immediate housing needs for formerly incarcerated citizens. Out of this work, P & SJ proposes setting up an escrow fund that would be supported by the religious community to address this population's housing needs; they plan to approach ACT to see which churches would be interested in contributing. There are several congregations (ex. Congregationalists, Episcopalians) who have a specific interest in prison issues. The fund could pay for an apartment or a house that could serve as an immediate transitional place for people until they get settled in a permanent place. The house/apartment would be acquired/maintained under the auspices of the Ultimate Reentry Opportunity Program (URO); they would supervise the residence and provide supportive services. In addition, the Multicultural Resource Center would coordinate with other agencies such as the Department of Social Services and Catholic Charities to ensure that adequate funding can be continued.

The proposed escrow fund would be used for augmenting the rent subsidies provided by the Department of Social Services, as well as for heat, utilities and upkeep costs. URO has been given \$2000 to start this venture and P & SJ would like to bring this amount up to \$10,000. P&SJ is asking the Meeting for \$1000 to contribute to this fund.

Many questions were asked and answered, including how individual F(f)riends could donate to this fund. IMM Treasurer, Mike Simkin indicated there is money in IMM's general reserve fund to support this request. Friends approved committing \$1,000. from the general reserve fund to URO in pursuit of this initiative.@

2017 3.5 Peace & Social Justice: Report on efforts to welcome refugees

Miguel Piery delivered an update on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Immigrant Support's request for IMM's purchase and display of a banner that was originally brought before Business Meeting in December. After threshing and discernment, it was decided that a sign limiting our welcome to refugees and immigrants was not the best way to achieve the desired purpose of welcoming and supporting all individuals. The committee is currently exploring other ways we as a faith community can make ourselves known as a place where all are welcome.

Garry Thomas elaborated on the Ad Hoc Working Group's threshing and invited interested F(f)riends outside of this committee to take up the question of an appropriate welcome banner. Friends shared a variety of ideas. Questions were asked and answered.

Friends received the report.@

2017 3.6 TSMC: Report on hiring a sweeper for Meetinghouse.

Gina Varrichio reported on behalf of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee about its ongoing efforts to keep the meetinghouse clean. As directed by the meeting, TSMC has investigated the cost and details of hiring a professional cleaning service to do this work and would like to offer the position of paid professional cleaner without reservation to meeting member Carl Peterson. In order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, TSMC provided a list of reasons why this decision is in the best interest of IMM. While payment details are not yet finalized, it is estimated this cost would be in the acceptable range of approximately \$100/month.

Friends received the report.@

2017 3.7 Other Concerns

No other concerns were raised.

2017 3.8 Closing Worship

Nineteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:36pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on April 9, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Jennings

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. 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.

Coming May 6 Springtime Tea at the Dunham's

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite F/friends to their annual tea at their house, 105 Dunmore Place. Please don't bring anything; we'll be happy just to see you. Stop by for a cup of tea, a snack or just conversation. All are welcome!

April 2017 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, April 6, noon

Friendly Men are lunching on the first Thursday of the month at Diamonds on Green Street at noon. The \$10 lunch buffet provides a great opportunity to get together and socialize in an easy manner! For more info: Lynn Podhaski at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam Murphy at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

Justice for All — FCRJ Benefit Concert Friday, April 7, 7:30p

Sponsored by IMM, and a fundraiser for Friends Center for Racial Justice! Featuring: Lea Gilmore - a blues, gospel, and jazz-singing civic activist; Annie Patterson & Peter Blood, creators of the song-books *Rise Up Singing*; Professor Louie - award-winning blues pianist and vocalist; a silent auction; and refreshments! Tickets: \$20 for adults and \$5 for children suggested donation. Don't miss this event!

Open Discussion on Racial Justice Sunday, April 9, 9a

Join us upstairs at the 3rd St. Meeting for a pre-Meeting-for-Worship discussion of racial issues and how they have been and are affecting our lives. IMM Racial Justice Education Subcommittee.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, April 9, Rise of Meeting

Join the Quaker decision-making process. Proposed agenda items should be sent to our clerk, John Lewis, by the preceding Monday.

Women's Fellowship (Note Date Change) Friday, April 14, 7p

Usually on first Fridays, but this month on the second Friday. Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We are moving back to Ithaca Bakery (open to 9pm now), 400 N Meadow Street.

Easter Sunrise Worship & brunch Sunday, April 16, 5:45am

Friends are welcome to gather at the Third Street Meetinghouse for worship starting at 5:45 a.m., while it is still dark out! A brunch will follow the early morning worship. Meeting for worship will also be held at 10:30 as normal.

Growth Opportunities for White Allies Workshop Friday, April 21 - Sunday, April 23

See page 6 for more information about this Friends Center for Racial Justice event at the Burt House.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, April 23, 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.

Last Friday Night Supper Friday, April 28, 6p

Soup and bread will be provided. Side dishes or desserts are welcome, but it is okay to arrive without bringing food to share. This is a chance to enjoy some non-rushed time together.

ARCH Presentation: Aging in Place Sunday, April 30, Rise of Meeting

ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help) will cover ways to make our homes or apartments more accessible as we age. Also, we will explore how we can identify our own needs, and tap into the resources and accommodations that will support us as we age. All are welcome, and we hope you will bring your questions, and also your experiences and ideas.

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.

Other Weekly IMM Events

Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesdays at 7:30p

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