



Newsletter of the  
**Ithaca Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

**October 2017**

**IMM CONTACTS**

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

**Meetinghouse:**

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**Clerk:**

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**Childcare Requests:**

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024  
[ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com)

**Burt House, 227 N Willard Way**

Angela Hopkins  
[angela@fcrj.org](mailto:angela@fcrj.org)  
607-319-2644

**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)

**Newsletter**

Submit contributions to [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu). See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

**“Quaker Basics” Sessions Continuing**

Fifteen people gathered together for our first session of Quaker Basics. We had a nice blend of seasoned Friends, newer members and attenders, and a couple of people who wanted to learn about Quakerism. It was a rich time of sharing about our experiences in Spirit-led meeting for worship, preparing for meeting, vocal ministry and some of our customs and practices during meeting. The gathering set a nice tone for the five Quaker Basic sessions to follow. Please join us.

We meet from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and the following Sunday evenings:

October 1: What are the origins of Quakerism?

October 15: How have testimonies been use by various Friends in different historical context?

October 29: How do we discern truth: Quaker practices including business meeting, clearness committees, worship sharing and threshing sessions.

November 5: Diversity among Friends and wider Quaker organizations.

November 12: How do we live our faith in the world?

There is a short bibliography of readings, videos and websites pertaining to the first two sessions available from the Clerk. Please contact John Lewis at [clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org) if you would like a copy.

— *John Lewis*

**Faith and Practice**

Friends and especially newcomers to Quakerism might familiarize themselves with *Faith and Practice* published by New York Yearly Meeting. This manuscript is sort of the authoritative handbook for Quakerism in New York. From the introduction of that book, available on-line an in our meetinghouse library:

The present edition is the result of committee work begun in 1978. It includes an historical sketch of Quaker origins and describes the basis of our faith as well as our methods of practice and procedure, using many quotations to remind us of our inheritance. A glossary is included in the appendix for those unfamiliar with traditional Quaker terminology. There are also sample membership forms that meetings may copy and use.

— *Marin Clarkberg*

**Conflict as Communication in Community, October 6-8**

People do not always see racial aspects of conflict. We often need to work on the nature of conflict and aspects of community before we can do the work of racial healing. These elements are foundational. The Friends Center for Racial Justice is sponsoring a workshop designed to reframe conflict as an opening to greater depth rather than a barrier to relationship. The workshop will help to develop a shared understanding of conflict and a

*Conflict as Communication, continued on page 2*

## Conflict as Communication, cont. from page 1

shared language. It will offer conceptual frameworks for addressing conflict fruitfully. Its focus is on transformation- individual and community. Skill building through interactive exercises will be at the heart of the workshop.

Some people may be asking “How are we going to learn about racism and conflict? We have very few people of color in our Meeting so how are we going to get experience with racial conflict? How often does it actually come up?”

I’ve reflected on my experience of racism and identified areas of conflict and communication that I want to learn how to transform. On the one hand, at the macro level, it’s fairly easy for me to join with people of color in protests. I know which side I’m on. I attend a rally supporting Black Lives Matter or join others at Cornell to Take a Knee in support of the actions of black athletes and of the demands of Cornell’s Black Students United. These are easy ways to stand up for racial justice. On the other hand, I realize that demonstrations and projects where I am doing for people of color do not bring up the kinds of conflicts that arise when trying to build a community that includes people from diverse backgrounds. These conflicts challenge me to learn how to face strife and find ways to learn from it.

For example, conflict may arise when a person of color takes the courageous step of giving me feedback about how my behavior is affecting them. I may disagree with that person’s perspective. I may try to say, “But that’s not what I meant; you misunderstood me.” What happens then? Do I try to force the person of color to listen to what my “good” intentions were and overlook the information they were giving me? Do we each walk away? If we are going to stay in relationship we have to learn how to transform this situation out of conflict into community.

I, as a white person, may hear another white member of our community say something racist. I disagree and I want that person to stop. A conflict arises. How do I turn this situation from one of confrontation to one of transformation?

The FCRJ is built on the understanding that in order for white Friends to change our ways and become a more welcoming community we need to follow the leadership of Friends of Color. How do I follow the leadership of Friends of Color when I disagree? What do I do if I feel very strongly that something the leader wants us to do is wrong-headed? We are building a community. How do we communicate in this situation?

In our community classes, Angela has insisted that if we want to confront racism and be a welcoming community we have to decide not to take our ball and go home when the going gets rough. This workshop is designed to help us develop the tools and stamina we need to stay in the game.

Workshop facilitators include Heather Cook (Central Finger Lakes), Pierre Douyon (Albany Meeting), and Karen Reixach (Ithaca Meeting). To register for the workshop go to: <http://fcj.org/conflict-as-communication-in-community/> Questions? Email [registration@fcj.org](mailto:registration@fcj.org)

— Nancy Riffer

## What’s Up Upstairs

Every Sunday during “Afterthoughts,” you hear a report from “upstairs”—that is, First Day School—sometimes delivered by the young people themselves. As a Meeting for Worship attendee, a parent, or a prospective teacher, you might like to know more about what First Day School at Ithaca Friends Meeting looks like!

Well, one thing to know is that *everyone* is invited to the first 10 minutes, from 10:20-10:30. This is when we sing a few songs from Worship in Song and Songs of the Spirit (and sometimes others). If you want Spirit-filled singing in your life, please join us! This is also the time to drop off your young person and meet the adults in charge for the day. In fact, it can be challenging for us to receive First Day School students after 10:30am so we encourage parents to arrive a few minutes early.

At 10:30, we split into two groups by age. Those younger than 8 may go with the child care provider or choose to join the other group. For 15 minutes the First Day School teacher leads a lesson or activity with ages 8-12. We call this the “adult-led” portion.

At 10:45, youth have a choice to continue with the activity or move into a more youth-led time where several choices are offered and play is facilitated (usually by Ed Lisbe). Sometimes the adult-led part is a story which leads into an optional activity. An example from last year was a discussion about refugees followed by a project of making postcards for refugee children. Some choices after 10:45am could be crafts, board games, or a trip to the playground.

At about 11:10, all ages gather to prepare to enter Meeting for Worship. The First Day School teacher leads a discussion on what people do in Meeting, or leads exercises in listening or meditation.

When we enter the Meeting Room, First Day School teachers expect parents to take over supervising their children. However, after the “report from upstairs” is given, the childcare provider goes back upstairs to supervise any children who want to go. At 12 noon we ask parents to once again take over so the childcare person can clean up and finish by 12:15pm.

Informing all our First Day School activities is our annual theme. This year the theme is “Beloved Community.”

This structure gives opportunities for our youth to explore topics important to Quakers and build community with peers and adults from the Meeting. We pack a lot into just under 2 hours: Spirit-filled group singing, adult-led exploration, play and crafts, Meeting for Worship, and the opportunity to be seen and heard by the Meeting. Yet the role of First Day School teacher/leader is not difficult. It generally involves planning and leading a small multi-age group for 15 minutes followed by 15-25 minutes with a smaller group who want to extend the learning; facilitating social interactions during choice time; and helping young people spend a few minutes preparing for Meeting for Worship.

For more information, speak to any regular attender of CALM: Ellie Rosenberg, Melissa Blake, Joanne Sturgeon, Jill Marie, or Ed Lisbe, or any First Day School teacher/leader: Fred Horan, Melissa Blake, and Ellie Rosenberg.

— Melissa Blake on behalf of CALM

## October in IMM History

### 5 Years Ago (October 14, 2012)

A memorial minute for Carol King Mohler was read and approved.

### 10 Years Ago (October 14, 2007)

IMM decided to set aside \$12,000 in the following year's budget for maintaining a meetinghouse, in hope of finding one in the near future. Until that time, accumulating funds would be kept in a building fund.

### 15 Years Ago (October 13, 2002)

Marin Clarkberg was welcomed into membership of IMM.

### 20 Years Ago (October 13, 1987)

IMM approved building a ramp onto the Hector Meetinghouse for handicapped accessibility, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

### 25 Years Ago (October 12, 1992)

IMM approved the names of several volunteers brought forth by the Nominating Committee to start a new committee on Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM): Ellie Rosenberg, Graham O, Barbara Berry, John Kimball, Pat Exter, Bill Tyler, Carol Mohler, and Robin Alpern.

### 65 Years Ago (October 13, 1952)

A letter from the Clerk of Scipio Quarterly Meeting welcomed IMM's application for membership, announced that it would be considered at its November 1 Meeting, and invited Ithaca Friends to attend.

### 75 Years Ago (October 12, 1942)

George and Virginia Klune reported the birth of their daughter Virginia Sturges Klune the past seventh month 19th. She is the first birthright member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting [born into this Meeting].

— Tom Brown, *Meeting Historian*

## Driving Persons to Visit Someone in Jail

I imagine that many Ithaca Friends are familiar with a project organized by the Meeting's Social Justice Committee in 2002 which provides rides to County residents for visiting hours at the Tompkins County Jail. This project has been sustained by many volunteer drivers over these years who have ferried people from all corners of our county for a one-hour visit with a loved one or a friend who is in the Jail. The project began and continues because there is recognition that during such a stressful time, keeping familial and friendship connections is important.

Over these years, many people, some from our own Meeting and some from other parts of the Ithaca community, have provided rides. We have volunteers who have driven from the start of this project and we have had many people who have driven for a period of time. Right now we have experienced a situation where we went from having 18 volunteer drivers down to 12. So we are looking for folks who could drive for this vital service.

The way the program works is simple: persons who need a ride to the jail on the visiting days (Tuesday and Saturday), contact OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Tompkins County). The staff then puts together a schedule of person(s) who need a ride for a morning visit (9:15 or 10:30) or an afternoon visit (1:15 or 2:30). They contact the volunteer driver who has signed up to drive for either a morning or an afternoon shift. The volunteer driver calls the rider and firms up the plans for the pick-up. And when the visit is over, the rider is driven back home. To make things simple, volunteers created a brief two-page "OAR Jail Drivers Manual" which goes into a bit more detail about how the program works.

As you would imagine, this is a much appreciated service, highly valued by both the riders and OAR.

Volunteer drivers sign up for what each is able to do. Some sign up to drive one shift every two months, some for one shift or two shifts a month. If you have time and would like to consider being a part of this project, please contact Elizabeth Schneider, who schedules the rides, at 607-273-3566 or e-mail her at neschneid@aol.com.

— Elizabeth Schneider

### Elspeth's Birthday Poem

Hear ye everyone.  
Leader by example  
not by proclamation  
never be worried  
Never be burdened  
Just open yourself  
to your inner light  
Feel you're a channel  
Receiving the strength  
Let it pour through you  
In such abundance  
that it overflows  
In the form of love  
From your heart and soul  
In such a way that  
You have what you need  
to do what you should.

Born 89 years ago on October 13.

—Ann Rhodin

## Committees and the Budget

We're in the last quarter of the year and the Finance Committee is shaping the budget for 2018. Members of the Finance Committee will be contacting all of the committees within Meeting that have one or more budget lines.

We ask each committee to carefully consider their budget items to ensure that they are accurate and reflect the committee's priorities. To complete the budget in time, we need all committees to respond before the end of October. This way we will have a budget in place for Meeting to consider before the end of this year. Property committees in particular: please advise the Finance Committee of any anticipated unusual expenses to ensure that we are putting aside sufficient funds for repairs and maintenance.

To all who provide financial support to the Meeting: consider having your bank set up monthly withdrawals. This provides a reliable, year-round source of funds for Meeting expenses.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Finance Committee: Nancy Hillegas, Tom Brown, Marcie Finlay, Chuck Mohler, Marilyn Ray or Maude Rith.

## Peace & Social Justice Committee Solicits Ideas

Each year the Meeting allocates \$2,000 to the Peace & Social Justice to contribute to worthy organizations dealing with important concerns of the day, half "discretionary," half requiring Meeting approval.

Last year we contributed to such local organizations as the Ultimate Reentry Opportunity (URO), the College Initiative Upstate/OAR, and the Paul Schreurs Program, national organizations such as the Prison Action Network and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and international organizations, including the Afghan Women's Fund and two Palestinian-Israeli peace organizations, Roots and Women Wage Peace. Some of these we will undoubtedly fund again.

Thus far in 2017, we have contributed to the Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition/Rapid Response Network Program, Friends Peace Teams/Paz en las Americas, the Ithaca Catholic Worker and the Village at Ithaca.

We still have more than half of our funds to distribute this year, with decisions needing to be made over the next three months. We encourage people in the Meeting to make recommendations to our committee for our consideration, including website or other information about how this relates to the work of our committee.

Submitted by members of P&SJ: Elizabeth Schneider, Kathleen Gale, Miguel Piery, Susan Wolf, Barbara Barry, Betsy Keokosky, and Garry Thomas.

## Report from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) House Party Gathering

On Saturday 23rd, eight Friends gathered at the Third Street Meetinghouse to view an FCNL video about lobbying for a moral budget followed by a discussion about next steps. The gathering was most interested in continuing to meet to plan a meeting with our Representative, Tom Reed, to begin to develop a relationship with him and discuss some of the trade-offs to make a moral budget. We need a budget that does not abandon the most vulnerable among us, stops continued support of fossil fuel consumption, and attends to the pressing matter of climate change. We need a Pentagon that is accountable and is not further bloated. We need those in our society with the most to pay their fair share.

We will be meeting in mid-October—I'll let you know the date as soon as we choose one—and would welcome everyone to join us at this critical time in our country's history.

There will also be a FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute in Washington, DC on November 2 and 3. If you are interested in possibly attending the Policy Institute please let me know as there may be some others also interested with whom I can put you in touch for possible car-pooling, etc.

Wallace Watson and I serve as IMM's co-representatives to FCNL.

— *Marilyn Ray, IMM Representative to FCNL,*  
*m1r17@cornell.edu or 607-539-7778.*

## Fall Sessions 2017 of NYYM, November 10 – 12

The 2017 New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions is being hosted by All Friends Regional Meeting. AFRM is composed of Chatham-Summit, Montclair, Ridgewood, Dover-Randolph, and Rockland Monthly Meetings. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend! Friday's dinner and evening event will be held at Chatham-Summit Friends Meetinghouse, and the Saturday and Sunday events will be at Caldwell University. The Host Task Group looks forward to meeting you!

The registration deadline is Friday, October 30. Registration for adults registering after October 30 is \$35. For more information, visit <http://www.nyyym.org/session/fall-sessions-2017>.

Contact Melanie-Claire Mallison, MsMellie@gmail.com, 607-280-8182. For Children and Youth programs: Sylke Jackson, sylkej@gmail.com, 845-300-9779 and Jim Mandala jmandala@verizon.net, 908-889-0706.

### Gary Edward Rith Open Pottery Studio

October 7-8 and November 24-25 11am-4pm each day

Demonstrating pottery making in my studio, which is chock full of fun pots! We are on Route 366 at 540 Main St, Etna, NY, a light green house about 3/4 mile north of Route 13

There are 2 driveways plus the roadside for parking.

— *Gary Rith, garyrith@yahoo.com, 607 347 6444*

## Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, September 10, 2017

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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 on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

#### 2017 9.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on September 10, 2017. At 12:20 pm, eleven Friends gathered and settled into worship.

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

Clerk read *Fire* by Judy Brown:

*What makes a fire burn is space between the logs, a breathing space.*

*Too much of a good thing, too many logs packed in too tight can douse the flames almost as surely as a pail of water would.*

*So building fires requires attention to the spaces in between as much as to the wood.*

*When we are able to build open spaces in the same way we have learned to pile on the logs,*

*Then we can come to see how it is the fuel and the absence of the fuel together, that make fire possible.*

*We only need to lay a log lightly from time to time.*

*A fire grows simply because the space is there, with openings in which the flame that knows just how it wants to burn can find its way.*

Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

#### 2017 9.2 Application to Become Part of the NYYM Monthly Meeting Partners Project

As an outcome of last month's Meeting for Worship discussion of the NYYM Monthly Meeting Partners Project, a fifteen item on-line survey was distributed to Friends over email and announced in the Meeting's newsletter. The survey included questions about the current state of our Meeting as well as hopes for the future. Marilyn Ray reported that the survey responses were difficult to summarize. Only fourteen Friends responded to the survey, and in those responses were a wide variety of in-depth commentaries. Marilyn found that the survey responses did not reveal an apparent consensus as to the issue of whether or not to move forward with the application.

In the ensuing discussion, Friends weighed whether the level of support indicated in the survey and evidenced elsewhere might be sufficient to successfully engage with this NYYM project. It may be the case that engaging with the project could help us structure and support the work that is already a concern in our Meeting rather than simply creating new commitments or an extra burden. Friends also considered both the work required in meeting the September 30th deadline as well as the benefits that could accrue from putting together a thoughtful application even if it was not eventually successful.

Friends approved the Meeting moving forward with an application by the September 30th deadline. @

A first gathering of those willing to work on the application was proposed for Thursday, September 14th at 4:30pm at the Friends Center for Racial Justice.

#### 2017.9.3 Ministry & Worship: Ad Hoc Committee for Improving our Sound System

On behalf of Ministry & Worship, John Lewis reported that issues persist regarding the ability to hear well during Meeting for Worship and other Third Street Meetinghouse events. Ministry & Worship proposes an Ad Hoc Committee for Improving our Sound System. Members of the Ad Hoc group include Susan Wolf, Steve Gaarder, and Nancy Hillegas. Friends approved the creation of the Ad Hoc committee. @

#### 2017 9.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, shared the monthly Treasurer's report. Mike's printed materials included a three-page spreadsheet as well as a one-page summary of observations about the state of our finances. Mike read from the summary of observations, noting for example that we have received 46% of our annual donation request for the year. Friends received the report.

#### 2017 9.5 Other Concerns

A Friend observed that the Burt House could use a sign outside that says "Friends Center for Racial Justice." A Friend was wondering about a mislaid communication from Verizon regarding the quality of cell phone or wifi reception in the Burt House. This issue will be addressed at this week's Burt House Committee meeting and perhaps referred to Trustees.

#### 2017 9.6 Closing worship

Eleven Friends settled into silent worship at 1:25 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on October 8, 2017.

*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. No experience or equipment needed. Please check with Nancy Gabriel the day before: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

## **Tai Ji Quan, Tuesdays 7:30-8:30p**

Peaceful. Although being a martial art, this class is a welcoming and warm retreat focused on well being and health. The most likely self defense situation that we hope our class helps prepare for is avoiding slips and falls. Contact Chris Dunham for more information. Donations to cover costs.

# **October 2017 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, October 5, noon**

The \$10 lunch buffet at Diamond's Indian restaurant provides a great opportunity to get together! For more information, contact Lynn Podhaski at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam Murphy at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

## **Conflict as Communication in Community Friday, October 6 - Sunday, October 8**

This Friends Center for Racial Justice workshop is designed to reframe conflict as an opening to depth rather than a barrier to relationship. Attendance at all sessions is important. The workshop begins Friday evening 6:00p-8:30p with supper, fellowship and a program focused on what is conflict and conflict transformation. Saturday's program runs from 8:45a-5:00p and includes breakfast, lunch and fellowship in addition to the program. Sunday's program, 8-10a, includes breakfast and time for reflection, prayer and looking ahead. See pages 1-2 for more information.

## **Lacrosse, the Creator's Game Saturday, October 7th, 4p**

Alfred Jacques of the Onondaga Nation will share on the history of and information about lacrosse and other games played in Native Nations. We will share a traditional Corn Soup supper and view a family-friendly movie, "Crooked Arrows," about a struggling Native lacrosse team finding strength and power in reconnecting with culture and tradition. Please RSVP to Susan Wolf by September 30th: 718-702-8903, QuakerWolf@gmail.com

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, October 8, 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 Friday, October 13, 7p**

Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will be at Ten Forward, a vegan cafe above Autumn Leaves bookstore on the Commons. There is plenty of room!

## **Internalized Racism: History, Culture and Identity Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22**

This Friends Center for Racial Justice event is sponsored by African American Concerns, European American Quakers to End Racism (EAQWER), and Task Group on Racism.

## **Quaker Values and End-of-Life Decisions Sunday, October 22, Rise of Meeting**

ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation, & Help) will have a workshop on the Quaker version of Five Wishes. Come and sit with friends to consider your end-of-life wishes, and perhaps take the time to complete the booklet while we are together.

## **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, October 25, 5p**

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

## **Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, October 29, Rise of Meeting**

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

## **Coming in November:**

### **ARCH Vigiling Workshop, November 18**

Angela Mennito will lead us in a workshop on ways to hold a bedside vigil with someone gravely ill or dying. More information to follow.

## **On Sundays**

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse

11:15a **Children in childcare** enter the meetingroom for inter-generational Meeting for Worship.

## **Other Weekly IMM Events**

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

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