



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

December 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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607-229-9500

Clerk:

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Assistant Clerk:

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Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
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Ministry & Worship:

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Childcare Requests:

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Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burrth House, 227 N Willard Way

Angela Hopkins
angela@fcrj.org
607-319-2644

Listserv:

To join our email list 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.

Seminar on Wheels: An Exploration of Racial Injustice, Feb 16-23

We invite you all to take part in our first “Seminar on Wheels”: a History of Slavery and Racial Injustice. Whether you have studied these topics in depth or simply have an interest in becoming more aware of them, we sincerely invite you to explore with us these histories, through intensive seminar in intentional community and experience of actual historic sites and commemorative interpretations of the same. Locations include:

Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, location of John Brown’s abolitionist raid
Charlottesville, Virginia

Amicalola Falls, southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail
Atlanta, Georgia

The National Lynching Memorial, Montgomery, Alabama
Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama

Stagville Plantation and Historic Site, Durham County, North Carolina, once one of the largest plantations in the South with over 900 slaves

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC

Accompanying us on our trip in addition to an organizer will be two educators ready to resource our learning and lead us in study, reflection, worship and confession—a hallmark of our Biblical calling in every text of our faith.

We cannot know how to grieve without awareness. At times, this Seminar will lead us to imagery that is brutal and cruel. Some films we view together will be heartbreaking, and may drive us to tears. What we learn together will not be easily dismissed; it may leave us unsettled. It may haunt our view of our world today with the sting of truth.

As Christians, we do not turn from truth. We seek it out, even when it is hard, and we do not flinch—but we believe that the God of hope is not done with us, nor with our story, yet.

This trip is not for the faint-of-heart. If you are ready to learn, you should go.

The trip will cost anywhere from \$675 up; price may be slightly adjusted as we plan more concrete accommodations and group meals. Because of the graphic nature of some of the academic content, this trip is available to individuals age 14 (9th grade) and up. At times, the trip will involve walking over uneven ground, walking city blocks (e.g. from a meal to a site), and optional hikes. We do not recommend this trip for the mobility-impaired.

Please consider, research, and discern if you feel led to take this opportunity. If so please let me know; (607)319-2644. A brochure is now available. Registration is unfolding in stages; members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church and Religious Society of Friends of Ithaca are invited to register now. Soon, area youth and their parents will be invited, and then registration will be open to all.

—Angela Hopkins

Kitchen Cupboard needs volunteers, coordinator

The Kitchen Cupboard is Ithaca's food pantry, serving over 6000 people a year. Ithaca Friends have volunteered at the Kitchen Cupboard every month for years! We volunteer on the first Wednesday of every month, and on fifth Tuesdays when those occur. We need two volunteers each time from 1:15 to about 3:30. Ginny Gartlein and Sue Kinchy are often there, but we need a few more volunteers to call on when one of them is away, and also a volunteer coordinator, who will make sure that Friends have signed up each month. For more information or to become a volunteer, please contact Ginny Gartlein 272-3471 or Bronwyn Mohlke 220-3219.

— *Bronwyn Mohlke*

Office Space Available

Office space available in a historic professional building conveniently located at 109 E. Seneca Street, the Frontenac Building, near the Commons, the courts and parking garages. Shared services available. Good signage and visibility. For more information, call Bonnie Cady, Office Manager, Shaw & Murphy, PLLC 607-273-2900, or by email: bcady@shawlawfirm.com

— *Liam Murphy*

PoHo's Annual New Year Celebration December 30, 2018 - January 1, 2019

Powell House is the Quaker conference and retreat center of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, located in Old Chatham, New York.

One of Powell House's most popular events is the multigenerational New Year Celebration. Register early! Activities for all ages. Right after our evening meal on the 31st, it's Cabaret! Bring your instruments, a song, story, poem and/or skit to share with everyone on New Year's Eve. Our cooks will have a Quaker midnight feast ready for us. We'll conclude the celebration with a brunch on January 1st. Visit powellhouse.org for more information. Register by December 15th: \$400/family; \$200/adult; \$100/ages 13-22; \$50/infant-12; Commuters half-price.

Annual Meeting of the Corporation January 13

Friends, please plan to attend the annual meeting if you can.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. is the legal entity of our Meeting and is required by New York State law to conduct an annual meeting, which we hold on the second Sunday in January after the rise of meeting for worship. We will hear a brief report for the President (Clerk of Trustees), Secretary (Recording Clerk of Trustees) and a more detailed annual report from our Treasurer. Please try to attend. A sign-up sheet will be circulated so that we can document that a significant percentage of our members participated in the annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be followed by our January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business where we will begin to hear some of the annual reports from our various committees. Depending upon the length of the reports, we will probably continue to hear them at our February meeting as well. This is a wonderful time to learn what everyone is doing to nurture our Meeting and witness in the world. Committees should submit their annual reports to the clerk, John Lewis by January 5.

From Friends General Conference:

How do Quakers celebrate Christmas?

In modern times, most Quakers celebrate a low-key Christmas, and sometimes Easter, as part of our larger culture. However, traditionally, Quakers did not celebrate any religious holidays because all days are "holy days."

— www.fgcquaker.org/discover/faqs-about-quakers

From the Archives

Often when I'm reading through the minutes, I find things that sound really similar to the present, but then the details prove very different. This "State of the Society" report from 1962 sounds familiar at first - the summary sounds right, especially since we know the Meeting stayed in Anabel Taylor for almost another five decades.

State of Society Report, Religious Society of Friends Ithaca Monthly Meeting, February 1962

Summary: The health of the Society seems generally good. Meetings for Worship are well attended and regularly held. There is a large and active First Day School. Our ministry to College Students is carried out by dedicated young people with considerable perspective and outreach. The social and religious causes to which the Meeting has committed itself range from Africa and Asia to local housing and segregation. Individual Friends are extremely active in Peace, Civil Liberties, Negro and International Affairs on both a local and national scale. Financially, the Meeting finds it easy to raise its budget, contribute to Friends' work and undertake extensive national concerns. The vocal ministry is good; the worship services seem increasingly religious experiences. Monthly Meetings for business are carried out with dispatch and in a spirit of mutual inquiry. No further moves, except for a survey of needs, has been made toward a permanent meetinghouse; it seems presently to be the general opinion that our quarters in Anabel Taylor Hall are adequate for present needs.

Meetings for Worship: These are held at 10:00 AM each first day in the Library of Anabel Taylor, on the campus of Cornell University. Attendance, on the average, is 50-60, with some changes during periods when the college is or is not in session. Generally, the children attend for the first 15-20 minutes and then go to their classes. As a new plan, we have been trying having the children on the first Sunday of each month meet in their own service, to which adults go for the first 15-20 minutes; the adults then leave and open their own Meeting. This has put additional emphasis on the role of the children and has assured one meeting a month for the adults in which there is little disturbance. A further discussion of the plan is scheduled after a proper period of trial. College students account for a substantial group in the Meeting -- sometimes as high as 40-50 percent. There is an increasing tendency for the Meeting to be silent with perhaps one or messages. The participation in vocal ministry is good; oftentimes a student will speak. Although 4-5 of the members are more responsible for the ministry than most, there is general participation.

First Day School: It is at this point that the Meeting may be having its chief problems. We have a very large group of small children and an inadequate group of larger children to justify adequate classes. Many of the children are of attenders or even of families who do not attend. Some tendency is indicated to become "child centered" in the meeting, with feeling that the whole program should cen-

Everything to do with people under 25, though, seems different, even as some of the questions are the same. When should kids be in meeting? How do we deal with kids in different age clusters? How do we relate to college and high school students, and kids who aren't affiliated formally with Meeting?

— *Simon St. Laurent*

ter around child training. There is some difference of opinion as to programming. We have a group of most dedicated teachers and the training being received is excellent. The whole matter of the First Day School is under advisement.

Social Outreach and Friends Concerns: A considerable number of members continue to serve on national boards of AFSC, FOR, WIL and related agencies. Some Friends give largely of their time in speaking on national issues, writing books and articles, etc. One of our members has taken a leave from his job to set up a Peace Center where books, pamphlets and other materials can be obtained and where help in programming is given. Several members of our Meeting are active in a non-partisan committee to run a peace candidate for Congress and one of our members has been asked to be such candidate. Members chair the local committee on housing, against segregation, etc. We believe we have a most active membership in these regards.

Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Ties: The Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting is from our Meeting. Members of this Meeting serve on Peace and Service, Friends College Committee, Advancement and other Yearly Meeting Committees. Our financial quota has been met.

College Young Friends: We have always felt that one of our major functions is to serve the college community. There are almost never more than 5-10 actual members of Friends in the student body. However, we draw upon a far larger group. We hold Young Friends meetings with supper, a speaker or discussion each First Day night. Attendance varies from 10-20. Heading the program are an older couple and two young couples who are themselves graduate-instructors at the University. The influence of this group in such matters as vigils, protests, instruction of COs. etc., is very great.

High School Group: This is a peculiar group in that it is not officially "Friends". In fact, only one or two members are Friends. Yet the adviser is a Friend and they try to carry out Friends' principles, particularly in war and peace, civil liberties, etc. It is the most active group in High School, leading protests, vigils, etc. They publish a newspaper.

Submitted,

Harrop A. Freeman, Clerk

FCRJ seeks communications coordinator

FCRJ (like many other Quaker organizations I am told) has had difficulty with there being a Friend emerging with the leading to serve as the Communication Coordinator. There have been two Friends who with good hearts, a concern for racial justice and racism, offered but found it was not a match with their other commitments. This role includes:

- oversight of the web site which has been established (keeping the calendar up to date, and posting other information that is provided)
- distributing information that is provided to the publicity team for timely distribution (we have a wonderful efficient Publicity team thank you Ruth , Marilyn and also Marin for timely postings

A NYYM Friend, recognizing this has even stepped up and made a donation which enabled us to provide a small stipend. Please contact us if someone comes to mind for this role.

— *Angela Hopkins*

Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series

If you're between the ages of 18 and 35(ish), there are more workshops in the Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series. Check them out! The next one up:

- One-Day Mini Retreat: What is Discernment? Quaker Decision-Making in the 21st Century, February 24, (Following Meeting for Discernment on Saturday) Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, Poughkeepsie, NY

See youngadultfriends.weebly.com to register.

All workshops are pay-as-led. Scholarships, childcare, transportation stipends, and hospitality will be available for all workshops. Please let us know if there is anything else you need in order to join us!

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, November 11, 2018

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.)

2018.11.1 Opening Worship

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

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 11, 2018. At 12:10 pm, fifteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer and Nancy Gabriel who were holding the Meeting in the Light and recited a traditional Quaker expression:

"Before you say anything, you should ask yourself three questions: It is true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?"

The Clerk distributed several handouts, including drafted reports.

2018.11.2 Finance Committee – Report on draft budget

Marcie Finlay from the Finance Committee reported on a draft budget. We are asked to consider and comment on the budget draft, but not approve of it this month.

Marcie began by highlighting our financial status as of November 1, 2018. Marcie noted that we have taken in \$43,798 to date this year, and have spent \$73,143. This deficit is not unusual given that

many financial gifts come in at the end of the year. That said, our annual expenses this year have already exceeded our budget for 2018 by a few thousand dollars.

Marcie then turned to a draft of the 2019 budget proposal. The 2019 budget represents close to a 10% increase over 2018. Marcie highlighted a few significant changes in particular budget items, including shifts in income and expenses related to the Burtt House, the addition of \$4000 to be spent towards a bookkeeper, and a smaller increase in the expenditure budget for cleaning services for the Third Street Meetinghouse. Chuck Mohler elaborated on why expenses incurred through the Burtt House have shifted given the Friends Center for Racial Justice occupancy.

Friends received the report. @

2018.11.03 Earthcare Committee – Meeting approved donations

Betsy Keokosky from Earthcare reminded Friends that the Earthcare budget includes \$1000 to provide donations to other organizations or causes. That amount is divided into \$500 to donate at their discretion and \$500 to bring to Monthly Meeting for approval. Betsy referenced a printed report listing the five organizations that would each receive \$100 at the discretion of the committee. These are: Floating Classroom, Ithaca Children's Garden, Project Growing Hope Community Garden, Primitive Pursuits, and a contribution towards a fund for a projector for Friend Amala Lane's exhibit of linden trees.

Meeting previously approved that \$100 be donated to the Quaker Institute of the Future. The Earthcare Committee proposes that the

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remaining \$400 in this portion of the budget be donated to the following organizations: Cayuga Lake Watershed, Citizens Climate Lobby, Mothers Out Front, and Indigenous Environmental Network-Keystone Pipeline. Betsy highlighted some of the work these organizations undertake. Friends expressed gratitude for care and research of Earthcare on the issues, and approved the donations. @

2018.11.04 Earthcare Committee – Offsetting use of natural gas

On behalf of Earthcare, Betsy Keokosky read a draft minute proposing that Ithaca Monthly meeting offset its use of methane in the meetinghouse through making a donation to Sustainable Tompkins's "Energy Savings for Renters Fund" in an amount to be determined by the Sustainable Tompkins Climate Fund's Carbon Offset Calculator. According to this calculator, one year's offset would be about \$210, based on the meetinghouse consuming using 1526 therms of methane between November 2017 and October 2018. Friends approved the minute, with \$100 from IMM's own "Energy Savings for Renter's" fund, and the additional amount coming from Earthcare's meeting-approved portion of Earthcare's donation budget for 2019. @

Betsy read a second draft minute from Earthcare directing Ithaca Monthly Meeting to begin planning to convert the meetinghouse's heat and hot water system to an air-sourced heat pump and to replace the gas stove with an electric one. After some discussion about the impact of this gesture and the role of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, Friends referred the minute back to Earthcare for further research, consideration, and seasoning. @

2018.11.05 Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Antonia Saxon presented a draft of the full slate of 2019 committee memberships including proposals for new committee members. Antonia highlighted the following committees as still need members: Burt House Committee, Children and the Life of the Meeting, and Finance. Nominating will be seeking approval of nominations in December. Friends received the report. @

2018.11.06 Other Concerns

A Friend read a draft minute regarding the creation of a Communications Committee. The Clerk will advise as to how the proposal might be best prepared for December's Business Meeting.

A Friend spoke about difficulty using the listserv from some internet service provider email addresses.

A Friend reported that 59 Friends are participating in Quaker Eights groups.

A Friend asked that the basket might be put out for the Elves Project on two Sundays, November 18, and December 2nd. Friends approved the putting out of the basket on those two Sundays. @

2018.9.7 Closing Worship

Twelve Friends settled into silent worship at 1:35pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on December 9, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

December 2018 Community Calendar

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. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Gabriel: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

VOICES Concert Saturday, December 8

Melody Johnson and Bronwyn Mohlke are in the VOICES choir. There will be a concert called Big Bands and Ballads: Swing Through the Season on Saturday, December 8 at 4:00 pm at the Baptist Church. Tickets are \$12 in advance, or \$15 at the door. It's going to be a fun concert, with instrumentalists in addition to the choir.

December 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, December 1, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

Quaker Guys Lunch

Thursday, December 6, noon

Lunch for Friendly Men and those who don't mind talking with them. We meet at the Ten Forward Café in Autumn Leaves on the first Thursday of each month.

ARCH Social

Friday, December 7, 1 to 3p

ARCH invites elders to a holiday social at the Third Street Meetinghouse. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a "re-gifting gift exchange." Bring something you already have at home (not a new gift) you think someone else would enjoy and appreciate, and take home something new-to-you!

We will be collecting socks for people who are living without a home. Socks are the most needed donation at efforts that support them. The socks can be new socks or already-worn socks in good condition. They will be donated to an effort that supports people without homes. If you need transportation, let Bronwyn Mohlke know: 607-220-3219.

Friends First Friday Films

Friday, December 7, 7p

Join us at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, 227 N Willard Way. This month's film is "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin." This powerful documentary chronicles the life of openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who, among many contributions to the movement, is best known for organizing the 1963 March on Washington, DC, involving hundreds of thousands of people. Questions? Call Ruth Yarrow, 206-512-0688.

Singing Before Meeting

Sunday, December 9, 9:30a

Emily Williams lead singing before worship. If you can't make it at 9:30, come a little later. We'll wrap up by 10:15 to settle for MfW.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, December 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

Friday, December 14, 6:45p

A Friendly, informal gathering to meet, knit, eat and/or hang out once a month, we will meet in Wegman's cafe upstairs. Stop by for a cup of tea, dinner, or just to say hi, everyone is welcome!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 16, 10:30a

If you are young, or young at heart, please come to Meeting for Worship on Sunday, December 16th to participate in our festivities. Participants will gather upstairs at 10:30am, and join worship for the celebration at 11a.

Holiday Dish-to-Pass

Sunday, December 16, Rise of Meeting

We will have our Holiday dish-to-pass at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, December 16, after the pageant. This is a heartier meal than our regular brunch. If you bring a dish to share, please bring a label so that Friends will know if it contains meat/gluten/dairy/nuts. We look forward to a sit down dinner with many Friends!

Christmas Eve Worship at the Burt House

Monday, December 24, 7p

Angela Hopkins, FCRJ Director, has graciously made the Burt House available for our annual Christmas Eve worship. Come and join us!

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, December 30, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submission due

Thursday, January 3, 5p

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

On Sundays

10:30a **First Day School** upstairs at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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

11:15a **First Day School attendees** join 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.