



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

January 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850
607-229-9500

Clerk:

John Lewis • 607-227-6273
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219
bjqmohlke@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

Ministry & Worship:

Annalisa Raymer
276-944-3835 • alr26@cornell.edu

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Angela Hopkins
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
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.

First Day School Before Meeting for Worship for All Ages

Friends, the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) Committee is experimenting with *all ages First Day School* before Meeting for Worship. Everyone is invited to join us for any or all of the following, upstairs every Sunday Morning beginning January 7:

- 9:45 Gentle movement or mindfulness exercises
- 10:00 First Day School for *all ages* together focusing on testimonies, Quaker and other stories, historical figures who have been a role model or inspiration, queries, visions, worship, putting faith in to action, quaker process, sharing
- 10:15 Singing and moving into worship downstairs
- 10:30 Childcare upstairs and worship downstairs; children can enter and exit as led
- 11:15 All ages worship together downstairs

We are also looking for Friends of any age who would like to lead the mindfulness or gentle movement and for committees or individuals who would like to lead the 15 minute all-ages content-sharing time at 10am. This could include sharing something you are doing or thinking about now or a short story with queries at the end. We have some lessons planned but are very open to the leadings of others.

If you can lead one or more intergenerational activities in January or February call, text, or email Ellie Rosenberg: ellierosenberg7@gmail.com or 607-227-1403.

From the Archives: Organizing Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has long been a part of New York Yearly Meeting, but it hasn't always been there.

In its earliest days starting in 1912, Ithaca Friends met as a group without formal sanction from a larger meeting. Including Quakers from all over the country and from different organizations, deciding on a structure and an affiliation probably wasn't the first conversation to have. Yearly meetings were divided into Orthodox and Hicksite, and there were other smaller splits as well.

Ithaca was far from alone in its independence. Amid the splits and perhaps as a response to the First World War, many small groups had appeared. Some were separations, like the Beanite College Park Meeting, others were gatherings of Friends from diverse religious backgrounds, and some, like Ithaca and Cambridge, formed near universities that gathered many kinds of Friends together.

While Ithaca was independent, it was still well-connected to many corners of Quakerism. Rufus Jones was a regular visitor as well as a regular Sage College speaker. Friends visited from North Carolina, England, and a variety of other meetings both Orthodox and Hicksite.

In 1926, Ithaca decided to organize its meeting, following the model of a group in Buffalo, appointing Alfred B. Wray as Clerk and Amy Grace Mekeel as Treasurer. The Ithaca Association of Friends did not, however, affiliate with a larger Quaker organization at that time.

History, continued on page 2

In 1930 at the first annual meeting, the group defined its membership as “members of different yearly meetings and other interested persons residing temporarily or permanently in Ithaca or vicinity.”

In April 1935, Ithaca Friends reached out to “all Friends groups in Central New York” for a devotional meeting followed by a social hour. Friends from Elmira, Perry City, Poplar Ridge, Geneva, and Syracuse attended, as well as David Lane, Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting, and Rufus Jones. Ithaca Friends also attended a New York Yearly Meeting gathering at Keuka College in 1936.

By the late 1930s, larger Quaker organizations were looking for ways to connect the many independent meetings. The American Friends Service Committee was a key connector for many of these groups. As Elizabeth Cazden relates in “Wicked Hard to Herd Up: Independent Meetings and the Friends Fellowship Council” (*Quaker History*, Vol. 90, No. 2 (Fall 2001), pp. 1-14), this work was different from the AFSC’s main focus on service and relief work. In 1936, Rufus Jones and others set up the Friends Fellowship Council to build these connections. Somewhat similar to the Friends World Committee for Consultation, which shared an office and executive secretary, the FFC board included members from various branches of Quakerism.

The Friends Fellowship Council was willing to recognize meetings that were already in the geographic sphere of existing meetings but hadn’t affiliated with them. Cambridge and Providence joined this way, as did a group in Detroit that had separated from a Friends Church.

In December, 1937, Leslie Shaffer of the AFSC spoke with Ithaca Friends and encouraged them to consider affiliating with the FFC to set up a Monthly Meeting. A few days later the business meeting considered “taking some formal action toward making application to the Friends Fellowship Council or Scipio Quarterly Meeting” of New York Yearly Meeting.

As the minutes put it:

“The meeting was well attended and all expressed the feeling that we had best join the Fellowship Council. The Clerk was instructed to write the Fellowship Council making application for membership.”

In January 1938, a letter from J. Barnard Walton asked the meeting “if we had carefully considered uniting with the established meetings in the district,” but the “the Clerk was instructed to reply stating we had considered this step for several years, but we felt our particular group fitted better with the Fellowship Council.”

On February 27th, “J. Barnard Walton announced that the American Friends Fellowship Council was pleased to grant our request and they were pleased to welcome us as a monthly meeting.” On March 27th, the “first monthly meeting of our group was held,” and “we agreed to use Faith & Practice of Phila[delphia] Yearly Meeting.”

— Simon St. Laurent

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 10, 2017

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 12.1 Opening Worship. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on December 10, 2017. At 12:15pm, nineteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

“May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.”

Clerk recognized Fell Cadwallader who was Holding the Meeting in the Light and read the following:

“The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out. But if we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for an hour or two at the base of a tree, the creature we are waiting for may well emerge, and out of the corner of an eye we will catch a glimpse of the precious wildness we seek.” — Parker Palmer

2017 12.2 Earthcare Committee. On behalf of the Earthcare Committee, Betsy Keokosky read highlights from the report documenting their donation of funds for 2017, \$500 of which require meeting approval. Earthcare Committee sought approval for the following donations:

Cayuga Lake Watershed - \$100

Project Growing Hope Community Garden - \$100

Indigenous Environmental Network - \$100

Quaker Institute of the Future - \$200

Friend received the report and approved the donations. @

2017 12.3 Friends Center for Racial Justice. Karen Friedeborn, reporting on behalf of the Friends Center for Racial Justice, read the following minute (see below). The minute details FCRJ’s request to open its own bank account and was submitted for approval by the meeting. IMM Clerk, John Lewis and Treasurer, Mike Simkin answered specific questions related to the account, its funds, their origin and disbursement.

Minute: The Friends Center for Racial Justice has asked to open its own bank account at the Alternatives Federal Credit Union. It would need to be in conjunction with IMM because we are the

Minutes, continued on page 3

supporting institution currently providing tax exemption for the FCRJ. The official account name would be IMMRSF/FCRJ to enable the receipt of support written to either to IMM and/or FCRJ. It would be completely independent from the current IMM account at Alternatives. Signatories of the new account would be Angela Hopkins as well as at least one member or the FCRJ Coordinating Committee. The balance of FCRJ funds currently held in the IMM account would be transferred to the new account. Responsibility for the maintenance of that new account would be passed to someone on the FCRJ Coordinating Committee. They would like to have this in place by the beginning of 2018. Friends approved the minute.@

2017 12.4 Peace and Social Justice Committee. Garry Thomas, on behalf of the Peace and Social Justice Committee read a letter drafted by the Cornell Nuclear Disarmament Group to Ithaca mayor, Svante Myrick, asking him to join Mayors for Peace, an international initiative. The Peace and Social Justice Committee sought meeting approval for Ithaca Monthly Meeting of Friends to be added to the list of signatories. Friends approved including IMM in the list of signatories.@

2017 12.5 Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Mike Simkin reported on the overall health and well-being of IMM's finances. He reviewed significant general fund highlights from both November and 2017 as a whole, including IMM's assets, liabilities (none) and various individual fund activities. He also described in detail the format of the printed budget report, page by page to assure understanding of amounts and information by period, both monthly and year end. He noted that IMM had received (and will most likely continue to receive) additional donations since the report was printed, but will likely not meet its projected total donation amount. This shortfall is more than offset by our assets. Questions related to the report were asked and answered. Friends received the report.@

2017 12.6 Finance Committee Draft 2018 Budget. Marilyn Ray, on behalf of the Finance Committee reported on the specifics of the proposed budget for 2018. Thanks to very careful management of funds, as well as corrections to various amounts that were discovered to be inaccurate, finance is requesting an increase in donations by only \$851. In response to the report itself (specific funds, lines and/or requests), as well as questions generated, Treasurer, Mike Simkin added clarification and further information. Mike also explained a \$75 amendment made post-printing that represents a new budget line for ARCH.

Clerk clarified how Burt House building fund balances have been achieved/documented historically in regards to the expense and income related to the caretaker. This accounting needed to be changed because IMM has turned BH over to the Friends Center for Racial Justice. He also provided detailed descriptions of specific budget headings (Wider Quaker Bodies, Witness, Nurture, Administration and Property).

Tom Brown, member of the Burt House Committee answered specific questions related to BH's residency reclassification that is still in process with the City of Ithaca. Friends approved the budget with the addition of the \$75. ARCH budget line.@

2017 12.7 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. Gina Varicchio, on behalf of TSMC reported the committee's response to IMM's request for it to research and analyze options for making doors at the top of the ramp into Meetinghouse easier to open and more handicapped accessible. She described the process, as well as a proposal for improving said access by installing new door closers. She described the variety, operational specifics and costs of these door closing systems. TSMC proposes replacing the current door closers with new ones that can be manually adjusted more easily and allow for delayed closing, as well as a mechanical solution to assist with door opening. These closers could be replaced for \$200 – 500 per door.

Gina thoughtfully answered questions related to potential funding sources for the project, as well as considerations about potentially increasing expense and ongoing maintenance for the door closing systems, especially as they relate to making matters ultimately worse for the community as a whole.

An observation was made that IMM could ask TSMC to do not one thing, but two: one, continue to pursue funding and installation of an automatic, electrical, push button system; and two, to pursue a simple mechanical system.

Friends approved the recommendation that TSMC pursue the mechanical system while still exploring specifics (costs, schedules, etc.) related to the installation of an automatic, push button system from the vendor they've currently identified and bring the resulting proposal before IMM Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business.@

2017 12.8 Naming Committee. Bronwyn Mohlke reported for the Naming Committee, nominating Antonia Saxon to serve on the Nominating Committee for a term of three years. Friends approved the nomination of Antonia Saxon to the Nominating Committee.@

2017 12.9 Nominating Committee Report. On behalf of Nominating Committee, Nancy Riffer reported the complete list of nominations to meeting committees, as well as the following recommendations: Pastoral Care Committee be reinstated, a new position for Friends World Committee on Consultation representative be added, and that the requirement for a person being nominated to Ministry & Worship be an IMM member be waived for Asha Sanaker, who is in the process of applying for membership. Friends approved the recommendations. Friends approved the nominations.@

2017 12.10 Other Concerns. A friend shared that TSMC will be improving the organization of the meeting room closet and hopes IMM will forgive the potential "mess" of construction for the next month.

2017 12.11 Closing worship. Fifteen Friends settled into silent worship at 2:12pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on January 14, 2018.

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. Please check with Nancy Gabriel the day before: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

Chad Dell & Meeting Outreach: Coming March 4

Save the date: March 4. Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting invites you to a day of exploring and worship with Chad Dell of Manasquan Friends Meeting. Chad will be giving a message at the 10 am worship and talk with us about preparing a meeting for the outreach process. Meeting will be followed by soup and sharing. More details to come. Contact Anne Dalton, 315-364-8676.

Building a Vital Meeting: Saturday, February 10

Friends, New York Yearly Meeting has welcomed us to become a partner in the grant-funded Vital Meetings Project. Hurray! But what on earth does that mean?

This means that we have some support from NYYM to work on building a welcoming, diverse, vital Meeting community of many ages. So, at the beginning of our journey together we are holding a party. There will be fun, food, worship of some sort, queries, and questionnaires. We will meet our partner in the Vital Meetings Project, Melinda Wenner Bradley. We will start to look at what we can each do in this work. How will Spirit lead us? We eagerly await gathering everyone's truth and seeing what comes next.

— *Ellie Rosenberg and Bronwyn Molbke*

January 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, January 4, noon

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

Women's Fellowship Friday, January 12, 7p

Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will again meet upstairs at Wegman's Cafe. There is an elevator, many food options, and enough room for all of us!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, January 14, Rise of Meeting

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

Winter Gathering of FSRM Saturday, January 20

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM) will gather Rochester Meetinghouse. There will be opportunities for carpooling. Contact Bronwyn for more information.

Newsletter submissions due Friday, January 26, 5p

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

Last Friday Soup Supper Friday, January 26, 6p

Our last Friday of the month Soup Suppers will run through April. We look forward to evenings of fellowship together! If you would like to make the soup one month, please get in touch with Bronwyn (220-3219 / BJQMohlke@gmail.com).

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, January 28, Rise of Meeting

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

ARCH Discussion Sunday, January 28, Rise of Meeting

Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) is bringing Sarah Jane Blake of NY Statewide Senior Action Council who will speak about an issue affecting persons on Medicare when they are hospitalized. The issue is whether a person has been "admitted" or is on "observation status" and what that means in terms of payment by Medicare. She will also talk about Livanta, the quality care improvement organization for Medicare beneficiaries in the area. Bring your questions.

This is the first of a series that will continue on last Sunday of the month, same as brunch Sundays, through April.

On Sundays

- 9:45a **First Day School** for all, see page 1
- 10:30a **Childcare** upstairs, **Meeting for Worship** downstairs
- 11:15a Children enter, **all ages worship together** downstairs

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.