



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

Angela Hopkins
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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.

Vital Meetings Program, June 9 & 10

The next big event in our Vital Meetings Project will take place the weekend of June 9th and 10th. The project coordinator Melinda Wenner Bradley along with a few other Friends from New York Yearly Meeting will visit to help us consider the next steps in becoming a more welcoming community for all ages. She will present a report on the survey of our meeting, which will highlight some concerns and opportunities we might consider. We will also have the chance to meet in different age groups to reflect about our personal experience of Meeting. This will be a wonderful opportunity to grow and deepen our beloved community, so please save the date.

Thank you to all that have completed the survey. The response has been great. It would be also particularly helpful if more of our school-aged children and young adults could respond. It will only take a few moments. The deadline for completing the survey is May 7, and the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYYMIthaca>

Report from Group Discerning on the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival

On April 25th, the Peace and Social Justice Committee (P&SJ) hosted a meeting for people to discern how IMM should engage with the Poor People's Campaign. Fabina Colon from the Multicultural Resource Center and Mary Anne Grady of the Catholic Workers came and spoke with seven Friends, initiating a lively and thoughtful discussion.

The outcome of the April 25th meeting is that we were not yet ready to bring a recommendation to the Meeting that we endorse the Poor People's Campaign. We worried that the closure of accepting sponsorship in a way circumvented the active participation in the evolving process. One issue that arose in this gathering is the importance of engaging with local community people and organizations in their attempts to critically shift power dynamics in a culture that has failed to reverse the long-term effects of systemic racism, poverty, and environmental destruction.

Sponsorship alone might be too easy. Part of the Poor People's Campaign is to look at our own actions to see if they effectively empower or foster dependency. Some ask if the money is better spent addressing poverty directly, on options such as education and low cost housing, rather than buses, meetings, speakers, or marches to bring about change.

P&SJ has a meeting on May 20th at the rise of Meeting and will have further discussion after considering other agenda items. Interested people are invited to attend. It is clear we need to become more involved in the campaign to have the clarity to discern our part in it.

The first 40 days of action are starting Monday, May 14, and will include six consecutive Mondays of Protest in Albany. This is modeled on the Moral Mondays protest which began in 2014 as a response to several actions by the government of North Carolina. Moral Mondays were characterized by civil disobedience, specifically entering the state legislature building to be peacefully arrested. These were led by NAACP leader, Rev. William Barber, who is also a leader of the current Poor People's Campaign.

Campaign, continued on page 2

Although our Meeting has not yet endorsed the Poor People's Campaign, many of us may wish to participate in upcoming activities in Ithaca and Albany, which might assist in our discernment:

Truth Commission – sharing stories on how you or people you love have been affected by racism or difficult economic choices. At Southside Community Center, 305 S. Plain St., Saturday April 28, 3-6pm

Nonviolent Moral Direct Action Training - Sunday April 29 and Saturday, May 5 Day of Action in Albany – Monday May 14

See handouts on table in Meeting House entryway, or contact: Tim Shenk (shenkti@gmail.com), Mary Anne Grady (607-280-8797), Jeff Furman (jfurman@twcny.rr.com) 607-592-2220, Michele Jones (mlj77@cornell.edu).

— *Betsy Keokosky*

Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering, May 18-20

Friends, Spring Gathering is a great opportunity for worship and fellowship with Friends from across the Region. Join us at Watson Homestead (near Painted Post, NY) for the weekend of May 18-20, 2018

The organizers have not yet put together the schedule but typically, there is a plenary program on Friday evening and Saturday morning and lots of interest groups on Saturday afternoon to explore various topics in smaller groups. Youth programming is typically as rich as adult programming.

Our theme this year is Faithfulness, Discernment and Change. You might want to be mindful of the theme as you anticipate our Gathering or put forward requests for Interest Groups, Workshops, or displays. There is a line for display requests on the form.

To register, visit: <https://goo.gl/EB7qcM>. Contact Bronwyn Mohlke, registrar, with your questions: (607-220-3219), FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com.

There are many opportunities to volunteer! You can indicate your choices through the registration form.

Ganondagan & I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 5th, 9a-noon

After hearing Peter Jemison speak, many of us were excited about the idea of visiting Ganondagan and seeing the new exhibit (Hodinöhsö:ni' Women from the Time of Creation) at the Seneca Arts and Culture Museum. .

I Love My Park Day is a statewide spring clean-up/fix-up event, and presents a golden opportunity to visit Ganondagan.

Ganondagan is about a 2-hour drive from Ithaca. Maybe we could go together? Please let me know (so we can coordinate rides). And also please respond to meg@ganondagan.org by Tuesday, May 1st.

— *Susan Wolf, QuakerWolf@gmail.com*

Recommendations for FCNL Priorities

Ten members and attenders met after Meeting for Worship on April 1 to discuss and decide on recommendations to the Friends Committee on National Legislation for priorities in its work with the 116th U.S. Congress (2019-2020). Many other Meetings and other Quaker groups are participating in this process. All these ideas will be digested by FCNL staff and used to develop this fall a legislative agenda to be pursued over the next two years by our "Quaker lobby in Washington."

It was a thoughtful and fruitful 90-minute meeting, during which we considered not only our personal issues but also the most effective ways in which FCNL can advance Quaker values during this particular period. We were especially encouraged by the recent success of bi-partisan discussions (including our Representative Tom Reed) on human-caused climate change, among many events at FCNL's new Quaker Welcome Center on Capitol Hill.

Besides the issues stated below, our message to FCNL stressed our appreciation of such bi-partisan dialogue on issues important to us as well as its encouragement and support of Quaker Advocacy Teams around the country. We encouraged greater outreach to others, including non-Quaker faith-groups.

Here are the priority issues we recommended:

We seek . . .

1. Greater equity in the political process: reduce monetary influence (e.g., corporate influence on elections/legislation), too-high campaign costs, and gerrymandering.
2. Criminal justice reform: end solitary confinement; provide more effective physical/mental health care and relevant education/training for prisoners.
3. Reduced gun violence: ban military-style weapons; reduce militarization of police; emphasize foreign aid, not armed intervention and threats.
4. More justice for, and assistance as needed, to racial and ethnic minorities and other marginalized people.
5. More fair and just immigration policies (as in the FCNL's 2017-2018 statement of priorities).
6. Increased efforts to address human-caused climate change—adding incentives for businesses, other groups, and individuals to contribute to this work.
7. Greater support of basic human needs—including fair-wage jobs meeting real needs (such as improved infrastructure), housing, food, mental/physical health care.

For more information on FCNL's work and the opportunities it offers us as individuals and as a Meeting, check out the FCNL box (lower left-hand) in the Meeting House library and/or www.fcnl.org.

— *Wallace Watson*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 8, 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.)

2018.04.1 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 April 8, 2018. At 12:15 pm, fifteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Clerk recognized Antonia Saxon who was holding the Meeting in the Light and read from the *Letters of Elias Hicks* (1861):

"...the more strictly and faithfully every man and woman lives up to the guidance and teaching of this inward Anointing – and never turns aside to the right hand or left for the precepts and traditions of men – the more instruction and help they afford one another."

2018.4.2 State of the Meeting Report to Yearly Meeting

Clerk thanked Friends who participated in one or both of the threshing sessions that informed the drafting the annual State of the Meeting Report. Clerk read the draft report. Friends considered and approved small corrections, additions and clarifications. Clerk was asked to draft an additional statement regarding systems for the hearing impaired. With these revisions, Friends approved the report.

The clerk will share the report with Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting. @

2018.4.3 Finance Committee – Proposal to Hire a Bookkeeper

Marilyn Ray reminded Friends that the Meeting's long-time Treasurer may need to step away from that role at some point, sooner or later. Nominating Committee has not been able to identify a replacement, and sought additional guidance from the Finance Committee regarding the specific responsibilities of the Treasurer. An ad hoc group examining the question come to the conclusion that it might be best to hire a paid bookkeeper for a few hours each month to shoulder part of the Treasurer's current burden.

The Finance Committee suggests we hire a bookkeeper with an estimated cost of perhaps \$3000 per year. Friends asked Trustees to work with Finance Committee to hire a bookkeeper through the end of this fiscal year. Friends asked Finance Committee to report back to monthly meeting as this work unfolds, and to return to monthly meeting should the expenses for this fiscal year exceed \$3,000. @

2018.4.4 Peace Witness and Social Justice – Request to Put Out a Basket for Poor People's Campaign

Betsy Keokosky brought some information about the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, what many consider to be a continuation of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of Human Rights. The movement is gaining moment in New York. She shared that the Peace Witness and Social Justice committee will be engaging the Meeting with a question of how the Meeting may be involved in this movement, and she expects be announcing a date for this discussion soon.

In the meantime, Peace Witness and Social Justice Committee requests that we put out a basket one Sunday to collect contributions for the local Campaign effort and in support of a protest in Albany scheduled for May 14th to which buses from Ithaca will be provided.

Friends approved putting out the basket April 22nd. @

2018.4.5 Other Concerns

A Friend spoke about her research regarding hearing assistance technology and asked for further information about how this might move forward. The Clerk updated Friends on the process and indicated that he needs to follow-up with the expert with whom Friends have communicated. @

2018 4.6 Closing Worship

Twelve Friends settled into silent worship at 2pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on May 13, 2018.

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.

Workday Cometh: June 16

Friends, the Third Street Meetinghouse does not maintain itself. Save the date of Saturday, June 23, 9a-1p and lend a hand. More details to come next month.

Poor People's campaign events in May

There will be consecutive Mondays of Protest in Albany beginning May 14th. See page 1 article for more information. There is also Nonviolent Moral Direct Action Training on Saturday, May 5.

Tenebrae Composer to Speak May 14

Hugh McElyea, the composer and librettist of the liturgical performance, "Tenebrae: The Passion of Dietrich Bonhoeffer", will speak to us about the project in the Third Street Meetinghouse on Monday, May 14, at 7:30 pm. McElyea is in Ithaca this spring during preparations for the performance of Tenebrae at Cornell's Sage Chapel on Saturday, June 16, at 8 pm.

Some Friends have been reading Bonhoeffer's works as part of the Community Classes at the Friends Center for Racial Justice. The word tenebrae is Latin for "shadows." In Roman Catholicism, a Tenebrae service recreates the last days of Jesus. McElyea's liturgy focuses on the last days of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran theologian who spoke out against the tyranny overtaking Germany on the day Adolph Hitler came to power. He spent the rest of his life struggling to be true to his faith while fighting against this oppression, secretly aiding Jews to escape Germany, and even joining the plot to assassinate Hitler. Eventually arrested, Bonhoeffer spent two years in prison and, just a few days before the end of WWII, he was tried for treason and executed by the collapsing Nazi regime.

May 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, May 6, noon to 1:30p

All are welcome to join this monthly Earthcare discussion.

Men's Fellowship Lunch

Thursday, May 3, noon

Join us for lunch at Ten-Forward, the cafe above Autumn Leaves. For more information, contact Lynn at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, May 13, 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, April 11, 7p

Women are on the move again! There is a cozy cafe at the Shops at Ithaca Mall, Cup O Joe. Will we see there? It's accessible. There's coffee. There's food. Come see.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, May 27, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, May 31, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 9:45a **First Day School** for all, upstairs
- 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 Burrtt House
Wednesdays at 7:30p
The Burrtt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.