



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2019

## IMM CONTACTS

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

### Meetinghouse:

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

To reserve space, email:  
[ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com](mailto:ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com)

### Clerk:

John Lewis • 607-227-6273  
[clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219  
[BJQMohlke@gmail.com](mailto:BJQMohlke@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Mike Simkin  
607-387-5174 • [mes13@cornell.edu](mailto:mes13@cornell.edu)  
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### Ministry & Worship:

Elizabeth Schneider  
607-351-0057 • [nschneid@aol.com](mailto:nschneid@aol.com)

### Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403  
[ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com)

### Friends Center for Racial Justice at the 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 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.

## Dispatch from Earth: Science, Mystery, and Stewardship

Two related events happen at this time of year. We have just passed the Vernal Equinox on March 20th: the point in Earth's cyclical orbit when the sun shines directly above the equator and all over Earth there is a day of equal light and darkness. It marks the first day of Spring and foretells the glorious resurgence of life after winter dormancy. Also, in this coming month of April we are nearing the Christian high holy day of Easter, which takes place this year on the 21st, the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Equinox. It celebrates the mystery and sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, whom Christians believe to have died for our sins and whose holiness intercedes for us and allows us life everlasting.

Both of these events signify rebirth and it is impossible not to see them as interrelated. Indeed historically they are interrelated since it is likely the early Church replaced the Anglo-Saxon spring celebration of their goddess Eostre with the Christian Easter celebration of Resurrection. One mystery becomes another. But, for me, it takes both of these concepts—science and mystery—to bring light to nature and our human role within it.

*“Seek ye first the Beloved Community and Right Relationship with all, and all of these things shall be added unto you.”*

— Matthew 6:33

Stewardship of Earth was a latecomer to our Quaker social testimonies (The last “S” in “SPICES”). These social testimonies were first articulated by Harold Brinton in 1943 and later fleshed out by others, including London Yearly Meeting in 1988 where “Stewardship”

*Earthcare, continued on page 2*

## From the Archives

In 1987, as she was handing the position of Clerk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting to Lynn Grove, Elspeth Rhodin wrote a farewell report that digs into the meaning of what our meeting does together.

— Simon St. Laurent, Meeting Historian

## Report from the Clerk, Ithaca Monthly Meeting, 1985-1987

In the life of our meeting, our strength presently lies in our meeting for worship. Each time we gather, we unite. We feel this and so do visitors who come to be with us. Our bond grows and deepens, increasing our need for each other, not only to be together but to ultimately do together.

This is a growth process that depends on commitment and patience and we need to recognize where we are in its evolution. Process cannot be rushed but it can be nurtured.

Friends have a particular dilemma to cope with, for by nature we are individualists. Can individualists form a group? It seems the only way is through the leadings of the spirit

*Elspeth, continued on page 2*

## Earthcare, continued from page 1

reflected the importance of a growing Western awareness: the shift in human responsibility from extracting to conserving and protecting our planet's natural resources. But science and mystery show the way to an even more profound stewardship, one that sees beyond this human-centric relationship between humans and the earth. One that recognizes that not only do we steward the earth, but that the earth stewards us—that we evolved with and are dependent on and are a part of the web of all other living organisms with which we share this synergistic planet. For me, reality and scientific understanding gain truth and power by decentering humanness; as does our spiritual longing for unity with the sacred.

In this time of rebirth and renewal, let us not forget that we are still at a historical moment in our process of our understanding. The demarcation line between what we call “humans” and what we call “natural resources” is always shifting. Sometimes “rebirth” is simply the blink-of-an-eye re-seeing of the world in a new way that changes everything.

— Elizabeth Keokosky, *Earthcare Committee*

## QuakerSpeak: Culture and Worship

QuakerSpeak is video project by *Friends Journal* releasing a new video every Thursday.

This week's QuakerSpeak points out some of the European American culture in our Meetings and talks about worship among a group of Quakers of African descent. Interesting insights into changes we might want to make.

<http://quakerspeak.com/how-does-culture-influence-quaker-worship/>

“Ayesha Imani found Quakers, she knew this was where she belonged. But she also felt limited by the culture she perceived in Quaker meeting—that is until she tried worshiping with other Quakers of African descent.”

— Nancy Riffer

## Elsbeth, continued from page 1

and the guidance through worship, to find the role in the group we each need to play.

As clerk for the past three years, I have had the opportunity to see more closely that we are growing toward our united direction. What happens to one of us in the Meeting affects the whole. Together we have shared deep feelings. The marriages sanctioned by the Meeting have brought joy and promise for the future as did and do the births; the separations have brought a sense of loss, of pain, and of sadness.

We are listening to each other. We are aware that each person holds a piece of the truth and no one person the whole truth.

We need to continue listening and to become more perceptive.

We need to hear the call of others and to respond with a curiosity as to why it came.

We need to work together so no one person is burdened.

We need to regard meeting for business as an integral part of meeting for worship. Attendance is the responsibility each member has to share their gift given insight, their piece of the truth. Not to participate is to hoard and to prevent completion of action.

Listen everyone, we need you. Together we can do so much more than each one separately and know so much more joy.

Thank you dear friends for your love and support these last three years. Your trust at times I found awesome, but provided me with what I needed to fulfill my commitment to you. You gave me opportunity to grow and I felt myself move. Bless you, I love you and so I loved serving you and will continue to do so as I join you in supporting the new clerk.

Peace and Love

all together now

Elsbeth Rhodin



## **NYYM Summer Sessions, July 21-27**

When is the last time you spent a whole week in a beautiful place among hundreds of people who all share your Quaker values? A place with beautiful lakeside beaches, smiling faces of all ages who meet to share stories about their Quaker leadings and good works—and the opportunity to do business, using best Quaker practices, that supports your spiritual community?

This year's theme is *Friends Come in All Ages, Sizes and Colors: Our Path toward Being Inclusive*. We will be celebrating the joys of our diversity and learning how to become even more expansive. For many Friends—especially for children and young adults—the week at Silver Bay is a needed re-charge for the rest of the year. Come celebrate what it means to be a Friend in a challenging time. Welcome all Friends!

Pay As Led: Starting this year, New York Yearly Meeting's annual Summer Sessions will be funded through a spiritual experiment we call Pay As Led that relies on each of us to do our part to support the wider community. To understand how Pay As Led works, visit our Pay As Led page.

NYYM stands for New York Yearly Meeting. It is comprised of all the Meetings in New York, and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. Another great chance to meet Quakers in our area!

Registration is due by May 15, but for a wider room selection, it would be better to register sooner.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2019>

## **Regional Meeting Spring Gathering, May 17-19 Reaching the Sacred Across the Divide**

Please join us for the 47th Spring Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Region of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends at the Watson Homestead Retreat Center, 9620 Dry Run Road, Painted Post, NY.

Explore with Friends to discover That of God in Everyone.

Inspiration and fun for all: worship, Bible study, business meeting, workshops, nature walks, games, crafts, singing, contra dancing and more!

Register by May 6 at <https://tinyurl.com/y6l5u4c3>, email [FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com](mailto:FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com) or call Bronwyn Mohlke (607) 220-3219 or Lu Harper (585) 732-4779.

## **White Privilege April 20**

On Saturday April 20, Michelle Brimage will facilitate the first in a series of one-day workshops designed to shepherd Friends through a conversation around White Fragility. We will be using Robin DiAngelo's book of the same title. Cost for the day is \$50 per person, or pay as led. There will be a mid-day meal (dish to pass). All are welcome (not limited to Friends and Attenders)!

Join us 10am to 4:30pm at The Third Street Meeting House. There will be lunch from noon to 1:15.

## **FCRJ Happenings in 2019**

Friends, hold the dates for the upcoming events at the Friends Center for Racial Justice, 227 North Willard Way in Ithaca.

- Mar 29-31 Writing for Truth and Justice: A Workshop on Internalized Bias and White Supremacy Culture. Facilitator: Janaki Spickard-Keeler  
Hope & Healing: FCRJ Benefit Concert #2. Facilitator: Annie Patterson and Charlie King
- Apr 26 Witness to Injustice: Unraveling Historic Native and U.S. Relations. Coordinator: Buffy Curtis. Facilitators: Neighbors Of the Onondaga Nation  
Generational Trauma Part 2: Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome (Joy DeGruy)
- May 10-12 Quaker Prison Ministry : What Are Your Gifts? Facilitators: Robert Martin & Judy Meikle
- May 31-Jun 2 Facing Unintended Racism. Coordinators: Barbara Bleecker and Mary Pugh Clark
- June Friends Center for Racial Justice Children and Youth Open House. Facilitators: Rima Segal and Angela Hopkins
- June 7-9 FCRJ Anti-Racism Training: Confronting Institutional Racism. Trainer: Billi Wilkerson
- June 21-23 Racial Healing, Justice, and Reparations. Coordinators: Jerry Leapart
- Jun & Sep Building a Multiracial /Multicultural Community: The Journey of NYYM Task Group on Racism and the Friends Center for Racial Justice. Facilitators: Atlanta Friends and the Friends Center for Racial Justice
- October FCRJ Annual Meeting. Corporate Apologies/ Corporate Forgiveness. Facilitators: Lu Harper & Anne Pomeroy

— Angela Hopkins, FCRJ

## **Further News from FCRJ**

The Friends Center for Racial Justice has hired an IT person who is in the process of further developing the website so that we can all keep abreast of what is happening. The address will continue to be [FCRJ.org](http://FCRJ.org). Please be patient. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please e-mail Angela Hopkins at [angelaforestglen@yahoo.com](mailto:angelaforestglen@yahoo.com).

Please note that the FCRJ First Friday Film Fellowship continues. Ruth Yarrow has been the coordinator for this season. The films are followed by interesting discussions. Mark your calendars. And watch for a Children's Film Series this summer.

And if you wish to further support the work of FCRJ, there are a number of support teams. If you are interested in finding out further information about the support teams, e-mail Angela Hopkins at [angelaforestglen@yahoo.com](mailto:angelaforestglen@yahoo.com) or Nancy Cooper at [nancy-coopline@gmail.com](mailto:nancy-coopline@gmail.com).

— Elizabeth Schneider

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, March 10, 2019**

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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.)

**2019.3.1 Opening Worship**

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 10, 2019. At 12:25 pm, eighteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

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

Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel who was holding the Meeting in the Light and read from Elizabeth Fry:

*I give myself this advice: Do not fear the truth; let it be ever so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it; and let me take courage and try for the bottom of my heart try to do that which I believe truth dictates if it leads me to be a Quaker or not.*

**2019.3.2 Naming Committee**

On behalf of the Naming Committee—Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and a member of Trustees—Bronwyn Mohlke brought forth the name of Nancy Gabriel to serve on the Nominating Committee for a one-year term. Friends approved the nomination. @

**2019.3.3 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Friends Center for Racial Justice and Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

Clerk circulated a printed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (dated December 8th) and Ruth Yarrow read it aloud. The draft MOU has appeared in the newsletter and was the subject of a threshing session at last month’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk asked if there were additional questions about the MOU.

A Friend asked where to find “the policies, practices and procedures of the FCRJ” mentioned in the MOU. Steve Mohlke, from the MOU drafting committee, responded that there was not necessarily a single repository, but that the intent is to convey that it is the FCRJ not IMM that is defining those guidelines.

A Friend asked how he is to know how to conduct himself, given that the policies are not well-documented. Steve Mohlke described

that we might make mistakes; our task is to listen. A Friend described that workshops have had made guidelines explicit.

A Friend described a desire for more exchange and understanding between the IMM and FCRJ. This can unfold through engaging with and visiting the FCRJ.

A Friend felt that phrase about “observe the policies, practices and procedures” is imprecise. To build trust and understanding, we should clearly articulate mutual expectations.

Chuck Mohler, from the MOU drafting committee, described the process of arriving at the MOU and observed that while there is room for improvement, we are not able to edit the terms of the document here.

A Friend spoke of Angela’s dual role in the MOU, as the Executive Director of the FCRJ and an active and beloved Friend in our Meeting. She urged us to hold Angela’s leading as we would a leading of any member of our Meeting.

A Friend missed a sense of hope and love and meaning in the MOU.

A Friend observed that a statement of the relationship of IMM to FCRJ would not resemble anything like this if it were not for the occupancy of the FCRJ in a building owned by IMM.

Tom Brown from the MOU drafting committee spoke about the depth of the conversation that transpired within the committees. The resulting document does not reflect that depth, but looks more like a simple landlord-tenant agreement.

Clerk noted that he will be proposing additional threshing sessions on the IMM’s commitment to racial justice work.

Though some questions about the MOU remain, Friends expressed love for Angela, our appreciation for her ministry, and our joy in having her in our community. Friends found unity with extending our agreement with FCRJ under the terms of the MOU until March 31, 2020. @

**2019.3.4 Request from the Clerk – Holding additional threshing sessions on our racial justice work**

Clerk proposes threshing sessions to discuss racial justice work in Ithaca Monthly Meeting be held March 24, April 30, May 30, and June 23. Friends approved the threshing sessions.

**2019.3.5 Ministry and Worship – Rebekah Tanner**

Bronwyn Mohlke relayed that Rebekah Tanner has asked to be released from membership from Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Friends approved her request. @

*Minutes, continued on page 5*

## Minutes, continued from page 4

### 2019.3.6 Ministry and Worship – State of the Meeting Report

Asha Sanaker read a draft of the State of the Meeting report. Friends expressed deep appreciation for the document and offered some suggestions. With specific corrections and additions—such as mention of the Vital Meetings Project— in the hands of Ministry and Worship, Friends approved the report. @

### 2019.3.7 Other Concerns

A Friend noted that the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee had not yet given its annual report. That report is deferred to April.

### 2019.3.8 Closing Worship

Nineteen Friends settled into silent worship at 2:20 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on March 10, 2019

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk*

### Threshing Sessions: Save The Date

The Meeting agreed to hold threshing sessions about IMM's racial justice work and relationship with FCRJ. The dates are:

- Sunday, March 24 after the rise of Meeting
- Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 pm
- Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, June 23 after the rise of Meeting

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## Faith and Practice: Advices and Queries

*Faith and Practice* is a handbook of Quakerism. Traditionally, the book was known as *The Book of Discipline*.

The origins of this tradition dates to 1656 when Quaker elders assembled at Balby and wrote twenty "advices." An example of this early "advice": number seventeen advises, "None to be busybodies in others' matters."

Advices and Queries have evolved over time, and each yearly Meeting maintains its own *Faith and Practice*.

The 2018 edition of NYYM's *Faith and Practice* has seventeen advices and sixteen queries. Below is a small selection for your consideration.

### Advices

1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.

### Queries

9. Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths?
10. Do we support measures to avoid pollution of air and water? Do we support measures to establish the conservation and right use of natural resources?
11. Do we foster reverence for life? Do we strive to find, to understand, and to remove causes of misery and suffering? Do we, in loving concern, extend assistance to those who require it?
12. Do we acknowledge the oneness of humanity and foster a loving spirit toward all people? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that men and women are equal? How do we work to make these ideals a reality?

## **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.

## **Springtime Tea Party, Saturday April 27, 3-6p**

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite Friends to their 15th annual afternoon tea at their house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. No need to bring anything! Stop by for a short visit or longer. All are welcome!

## **Nightingales Singing Weekend, April 26-28**

The Nightingales is a gathering for Friends who love to sing! Gatherings are once or twice a year and next one will be near Cortland. So please come join us for a weekend of singing, potluck food, and the fellowship of open hearts and shared voices in song. Christopher Sammond and Barbara Rhudy are welcoming us gathering at their place April 26-28. Poplar Ridge Meeting is glad to have us come and join them in song and potluck fellowship Saturday night, and to "warm up" the worship room before worship Sunday morning.

For more information, contact Bronwyn Mohlke at [BJQMohlke@gmail.com](mailto:BJQMohlke@gmail.com) or (607) 220-3219. The online registration form can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4utp29e>

# **April 2019 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Friends First Friday Films Friday, April 5, 7p**

At the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, we will show the film "Trouble the Water," 2008 Oscar nominee for Best Documentary. It has been described as an "astonishingly powerful film taking you inside Hurricane Katrina in a way never before seen on screen." Questions? Call Ruth Yarrow, 206-512-0688.

## **Earthcare Committee Sunday, April 7, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

## **Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, April 4, 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.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, April 14, Rise of Meeting**

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

## **Women's Fellowship Friday, April 19, 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!

## **Sunrise Meeting for Worship Sunday, April 21, 5:30a**

We will have a sunrise Meeting for Worship on Easter, followed by an early morning (6:30) dish-to-pass brunch. All are invited!

## **Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, April 21, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

## **Newsletter submission due Thursday, April 24, 5p**

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

## **Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, April 28, Rise of Meeting**

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome. (Note: we are changing from fourth Sunday to *last* Sunday! Take note!)

## **ARCH Discussion Sunday, April 28, Rise of Meeting**

You are invited to participate in a discussion of senior living options in Tompkins County with our ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) volunteers. There will be questions to help us think about different stages of our senior life journey, what kind of living situations might be appropriate in those stages, and practical information about senior living options in Tompkins County. Barbara Chase will facilitate the discussion and share her experiences helping her mother and aunt in this area, and as a nurse for 30 plus years.

## **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.