



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

August 2019

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

To reserve space, email:
ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com

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

Ministry & Worship:

Elizabeth Schneider
607-351-0057 • nschneid@aol.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burt 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:
m1r17@cornell.edu

Newsletter

Submit contributions to clarkberg@cornell.edu. See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

What do we want for our First Day School?

Please come and share with members of the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee as we plan for this coming year. There will be a Parent's Meeting September 8th. We ask all parents to share with us at this time—or by contacting us in some other way—what they would like to see happening during FDS time. Nonparents are welcome to come or contact us as well.

The parents meeting will be followed by teacher's planning meeting on September 15th. Please feel free to reach out as we look forward to another year with children.

— *Ellie Rosenberg* 607-227-1403 ellierosenberg7@gmail.com;
Angela Hopkins, angelaforestglenn@yahoo.com;
Barbara Barry, barbarabarry59@gmail.com;
Jill Marie, ijilly@aol.com

Report on our FCNL Advocacy Team

Along with over 100 FCNL Advocacy Teams across the country, local Friends have been part of a force that made the July 12 votes in the House to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Saddam Hussein's Iraq (2002 AUMF) and preventing a new unauthorized war with Iran, a success. Diane Randall, FCNL executive secretary, said "This landmark pair of victories signals a turning-point in the Congressional tide away from war and toward the path of peace," "Our Quaker faith tells us that war is never the answer, and it's becoming increasingly clear that both the American people and their elected representatives agree."

Since our local FCNL Advocacy Team training at the end of March, ten team members have been active in the effort to repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs. Six are from this Meeting: Fred Horan, Carolyn Kenyon, Betsy Keokowsky, Margaret McCasland, Gail Steinhart, and Ruth Yarrow. Four more active members are from beyond our Meeting: Frank Baldwin, Fred Balfour, Darlene Farley, and Cyndi Marvin. We have made an impressively well prepared and attended visit to Representative Tom Reed's office, published an op ed and several letters to the editor in the Ithaca Journal, wrote and called our Senators and Congresspeople, and taken part in FCNL conference calls three times a month.

Now we are continuing to urge our Congressional representatives to co-sponsor the following stand-alone bills:

House Resolution 1274 (Lee – 2001 AUMF repeal)

House Resolution 2456 – (Lee - 2002 Iraq AUMF repeal)

Senate Joint Resolution 13 – (Young & Kaine bill to repeal the Iraq 2002 and 1991 AUMFs).

We welcome Friends joining us in emailing and phoning Congress, and in joining our team if you are led. It has been an exciting first four months.

— *Ruth Yarrow*

First Congregational Church as a Sanctuary Church

IMM approved a minute in favor of supporting First Congregational Church's efforts to become a Sanctuary Church. The first phase in this support is fundraising in order to install a security system and a new bathroom with shower facilities. The following is extracted from their fundraising letter.

— *Gina Varrichio*

What is a Sanctuary Church? There are many definitions, but we specifically are seeking to help immigrants who are already working within the legal system to gain legal status, and who need time and a place of refuge to see their cases through. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) has not, to date, entered a church to apprehend an immigrant while in sanctuary.

How can you help?

In order to properly host an immigrant seeking legal status, our church needs to install a security system and arrange a living space complete with a full bathroom. We have volunteers to donate time and services, but we need to raise \$25,000 to make it happen. That is where we need your help!

Secure, tax-deductible donations can be made online at our Go Fund Me site, or contact ukmb.ithaca@gmail.com if you prefer directions on how to donate by check. No gift is too small.

We hope you'll join us in this small effort to reject the current rhetoric of fear and hate and recognize the dignity of all humans. If you have friends and/or family who you believe would support this effort, please share our Go Fund Me site!

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, July 14, 2019

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.)

2019.7.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on July 14, 2019. At 12:42 P.M., 20 Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Assistant Clerk shared a reading from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, then recognized Nancy Gabriel, who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

2019.7.2 Ministry and Worship – Membership for Carol Clarke

On behalf of the committee, Elizabeth Schneider presented Carol Clarke for membership. Members of Carol's Clearness Committee were Melody Johnson, Barbara Chase and Bronwyn Mohlke.

Friends approved Carol Clarke's membership.@

Permaculture Day with FCRJ at Perry City, Aug 24

The Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) will provide an intergenerational family fellowship opportunity hosted by Perry City Friends Meeting, in conjunction with the Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute's Permaculture Day on August 24th.

FCRJ will offer activities that build our understanding and relatedness to earth and to each other. Event will take place rain or shine.

10:00-12:00 Activities for all ages include spontaneous play (materials provided); story telling; activities you bring to share;

11:00-12:00 Medicinal Herb Walk

12:00-12:45 lunch by donation, provided by Perry City Friends (consider bringing your own cup, bowl, plate & silverware)

12:45-2:00 Making bee houses; Xerces Sunflower Project

Child care provided with registration on site. RSVP appreciated but not required. Contact Angela Hopkins (angela@fcrj.org).

Questions? Contact Donna Beckwith (dmbeckwith@yahoo.com).

You are invited to bring an activity, story about our environment, sense of play, discovery and wonder.

See you at Perry City Friends Meeting, 6324 Rt. 227 in Trumansburg, NY.

— *Angela Hopkins*

2019.7.3 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee Report on Repaving the Meetinghouse Parking Lot

On behalf of the committee, Melissa Travis Dunham reported on its work with the EarthCare Committee to address the deteriorated condition of the TSM parking lot. She detailed the considerations and discussion concerning the project, estimates regarding resurfacing options, as well as the committee's decision-making process. At its June 2019 meeting, TSMC decided to use Alex Cole, after checking additional references. By the end of June TSMC confirmed approval of Alex Cole for repaving after receiving several positive reviews from other clients. Paving was scheduled for July 18-19, pending approval by Trustees of the final contract.

The Third Street Meetinghouse Repair Fund has a total of \$38,844 as of Dec 31, 2018. Working with the understanding that IMM procedures require approval by Trustees for expenditures over a certain amount, TSMC scheduled the repaving pending approval by Trustees. The final, revised contract was received by TSMC on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 and forwarded to Trustees on July 11, 2019 who approved it the same day.

Questions were asked and answered. Friends received the report.@

Minutes continued on page 3

July Minutes from Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, continued from page 2

2019.7.4 Nominating Committee

Setting aside the membership requirement for roles within Meeting

Having achieved general unity around the spirit of the proposed minute at June's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the meeting requested Nominating make minor revisions to the language and re-present the revised minute at a future business meeting. On behalf of the committee, Marin Clarkberg presented the minute below that addresses only the relatively clear decision to state IMM's practice of approving service to the Meeting without restricting certain roles to members. The proposed minute reads as follows:

"Based on our individual and institutional history and experience, Ithaca Monthly Meeting sets aside the limitations articulated in NYYM Faith and Practice with regard to formal membership and service in certain roles and on specific committees. Using care and discernment in their work, the Naming and Nominating Committees as well as IMM's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business may recommend or appoint individuals to any position without regard to membership status."

Individuals shared their experiences, considerations, comfort level and appreciation. A desire to continue discernment around the meaning, consideration, encouragement and process of membership within the life of the meeting, as well as around the designation, Quaker, was expressed. Assistant Clerk shared knowledge of similar discernment and discussions occurring at the New York Yearly Meeting level as well.

Friends approved the minute.@

Reporting further, Marin Clarkberg shared that Nominating Committee intends to present Gina Varrichio for the position of Clerk and Dreia Spies for Ministry & Worship at the August Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. If F(f)riends wish to offer comments and/or feedback, they are asked to talk with a member of Nominating Committee (Pat Sewell, Marin Clarkberg, Pat Pingle, Nancy Gabriel or Karen Reixach).

Friends received this report.@

2019.7.5 Burt House Committee

Extending the Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends Center for Racial Justice through the end of 2020

On behalf of the committee, Tom Brown reported the history and context surrounding the generation of the following minute:

"The Burt House Committee (BHC), which has been designated as the committee for formal communications between the Coordinating Committee of the Friends Center for Racial Justice

(FCRJ) and Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM), realizes that the threshing sessions to determine the longer-term relationship between these two entities are still in progress and that additional discussions need to be held. The BHC is also aware of FCRJ's planning needs for next year, which include discussions at Yearly Meeting later this month. To both facilitate FCRJ's planning needs and to ensure FCRJ programming for the coming year, the BHC recommends that the current Memorandum of Understanding between FCRJ and IMM be extended to December 31, 2020."

On behalf of the FCRJ, Angela Hopkins provided additional information about the rationale and timing for the extension. Comments and questions were considered. Friends approved the minute.@

2019.7.6 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin reported he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of 2019 and expects IMM's new bookkeeper will most likely provide (at least) quarterly reports to the meeting. He expressed a desire for Nominating Committee to name a new treasurer to continue to serve as an intermediary between IMM and the new bookkeeper. During this transition and ongoing thereafter, he suggests IMM consider a formal reporting system for ongoing donations (ex. the donations for Kitchen Cupboard on 7/14 were \$95./cash and \$25./checks). This suggestion will be forwarded to Finance Committee.

Friends received the report.@

2019.7.7 Other Concerns

A Friend raised a concern related to the work of committees who are in need of more members. CALM, as well as the laid down Program and Pastoral Care Committees were offered as examples. A wish for a formal process to assess and address this issue was voiced. This concern will be brought to both the Nominating Committee and Ministry & Worship.

A Friend brought forward a request from Peace & Social Justice Committee to hold a food-related fundraiser during IMM's brunch Sunday in July. This concern will be forwarded to IMM's Clerk for consideration and/or approval.

2019.7.8 Closing Worship

14 Friends settled into silent worship at 2:07P.M. before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on August 11, 2019.

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

Meeting Retreat coming in September 28

Ministry and Worship is looking forward to gathering for a day of spiritual learning and sharing at our Meeting Retreat on Saturday, September 28th. Mark your calendar!

August 2019 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, August 4, 9:30a

First and third Sundays, Friends will gather in the library to watch a QuakerSpeak video and discuss. QuakerSpeak is a video series on YouTube featuring various aspects of Quaker worship, practice, community, culture and history. Come once or every time. This is a lovely, low key way to spend time together, learn and share

Earthcare Committee Sunday, August 4, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance Tuesday, August 6, 6-7pm

There will be a one-hour silent vigil (rain or shine) seated around the Peace Pole in front of the Friends Center for Racial Justice (227 North Willard Way, Ithaca). This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 74 years ago at the instant of the blasts, and of those who suffered from, and those who died from their injuries. All are welcome.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, August 11, Rise of Meeting

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

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, August 18, 9:30a

Gather in the library to watch a QuakerSpeak video and discuss.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, August 18, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, August 25, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submission due Thursday, August 29, 5p

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

Meetinghouse Wi-fi

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a new internet provider and therefore a new set up for wi-fi. Please refer to the information on the phone table in the library for login and password.

Every week reminders:

Vigil to remember the children on Mondays

Every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in front of the Tompkins County Library, there is a vigil that focuses on the separation of immigrant children from their parents or other adult relatives who have come to the border of our country seeking asylum. The weekly vigil is organized by the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

Worship at Hector Meetinghouse on Sundays

The Hector Meetinghouse (5066 Perry City Road) is open for Sunday worship through September. Dreia Spies and Tom Brown are sharing responsibilities for worship there. The starting time for worship is 10:00am, allowing time for anyone worshipping at Hector to get to the Third Street Meetinghouse on Sundays for activities after worship there.

On Sundays

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Children gather** upstairs at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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.