



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

March 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
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

Ministry & Worship:

Shirley Way
607-319-1494 • shirleyway61@gmail.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:

mlr17@cornell.edu

Newsletter

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

Scheduling Space at the Meetinghouse

We have a new email address to use for scheduling events at the Third Street Meetinghouse. When you would like to reserve space at the Meetinghouse, or have your event listed on the Meeting Google calendar, please email this address with all the pertinent info: ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com.



As you may recall, there are always two rooms upstairs reserved for IMM use: the Peace and Integrity rooms. Even if there's another group using the building, you should be able to have a committee meeting in one of those rooms. While these rooms don't need to be reserved in the same way as requesting to use the larger spaces, it's helpful if your group is listed on the calendar so it's known that the space will be used at a particular time.

TSMH Committee call for Meetinghouse Sweepers

Friends, our Meetinghouse is being used more and more all the time. In addition to our own worship and meetings, we host many community events, from regular weekly chair yoga and Teen Day, to monthly meetings of important community groups that such as SURJ and bi-monthly Death Cafes. We have increased the frequency of regular thorough cleanings on the first and third week of every month (that we pay for) and we are always looking for Friends who will sweep the Meetinghouse on the 2nd, 4th and 5th week to help keep our space tidy and welcoming to all who use it.

If you feel called, please use this link to sign up to sweep the Meetinghouse: <http://signup.com/go/gisFGAY>.

Advocacy for the Long Haul: FCNL Advocacy Teams Workshop

Are you frustrated, angry, depressed, or feeling powerless about what is happening in the country and the world? Contrary to what you may think, there is something you can do. In only three hours on Saturday, March 30th, you can learn from the experience of seasoned expert lobbyists how to become a powerful advocate and build a team of advocates to work with you. These skills are applicable to whatever cause is most important to you and can be used at the local, state or national level.

Join us for the FCNL Advocacy Teams Workshop, Saturday, March 30, 10a-1p, at the Third Street Meetinghouse. Register at https://act.fcnl.org/event/advocacy-teams_at-tend/728

FCNL, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL fields an expert team of lobbyists on Capitol Hill and works with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by our governing General Committee. FCNL is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to live our

Advocacy, continued on page 2

NYYM Spring Sessions Information, April 5-7

nyym.org/session/spring-sessions-2019

Nine Partners Quarter welcomes you to the 2019 NYYM Spring Sessions in Poughkeepsie. These meetings, which carry on the business of the yearly meeting between the annual summer meetings, need the wide involvement of Friends to ensure that they reflect the diversity and depth of all our monthly meetings and worship groups. This spring we are again being warmly welcomed by Oakwood Friends School. All the sessions and committee meetings will be held on this beautiful campus. Please find online (URL above) information on registration, hospitality, youth programs, YM agenda and advance documents, and a detailed schedule. We look forward to welcoming you!

Regional Meeting Spring Gathering, May 17-19

Save the date. This will again be at the Watson Homestead.

A Green New Deal Discussion, March 12, 5-7p

Please mark your calendars for the Environmental Management Council of Tompkins County upcoming 2019 Spring Outreach Event: A Green New Deal: Pathway to Ecological Sustainability?

How to reconcile our personal aspirations for the good life with the limitations and constraints of finite planetary resources?

Acknowledging that historically natural resources have been distributed unevenly among the Earth's residents, how do we achieve sustainable prosperity for all while reducing our demands on these rapidly diminishing resources?

Identifying economic models that prioritize sufficiently meeting our material needs and personal happiness over excess accumulation.

The EMC is seeking community residents' suggestions on how best to achieve our local sustainability goals.

Tompkins County Public Library Borg Warner Room. Light refreshments. Contact: Brian Eden, Chair (bbe2@cornell.edu).

Advocacy, continued from page 1

values of integrity, simplicity, and peace as we build relationships across political divides to move policies forward.

Friends at FCNL are led to believe that the Quaker activist is respectful of those who govern and engages members of Congress as individuals who wish to govern well. FCNL seeks to hear from members of Congress and to learn from them as well as inform them of its position. It approaches the building of relationships with elected officials with honesty and integrity, using resources and materials that are solid and well-researched. FCNL's word is its greatest asset.

— *A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying*
by Margery Post Abbott

Please join FCNL for an advocacy workshop:

- Influence your members of Congress and their staff through face-to-face conversations
- Drive the media coverage you want to see
- Build a strategic team in your community that lobbies as part of a powerful national advocacy network
- Join our 2019 Advocacy Team campaign to stop endless wars by urging Congress to reassert its constitutional authority. We are supporting legislation to repeal the AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force) and encourage debate on all issues of war and peace.

The FCNL Advocacy Workshop is free and open to the public, however, registration is required. Register at https://act.fcnl.org/event/advocacy-teams_attend/728

If you have questions, contact Margaret McCasland at mamccasland@gmail.com or Ruth Yarrow at rmyarrow@gmail.com.

DRAFT

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) and Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) Concerning the Use of the Burtt House

From Friends Center for Racial Justice:

Angela Hopkins, Executive Director
Charley Flint, Mary Pugh Clark, Jeannine Laverty

From Ithaca Monthly Meeting:

Tom Brown, clerk of the Burtt House Committee
Steve Mohlke, Chuck Mohle, Antonia Saxon

A memorandum of understanding is not a contract, but a temporary agreement. It does not try to decide everything. It just sets down what we have been able to decide.

This document will be in effect until March 31, 2020, with the expectation of renewal with possible modifications. Ithaca Monthly Meeting and the Friends Center for Racial Justice can now reflect on their individual charges. Joint conversations about moving forward can also take place.

Nature of the relationship between FCRJ and IMM

- The FCRJ is a separate entity from IMM.
- The Executive Director of the FCRJ is not an IMM employee and is not a Friend-in-Residence.
- FCRJ makes all decisions about events to be held in the building during its occupancy.
- Communication between IMM and FCRJ flows through the Burtt House Committee.
- IMM Friends agree to observe the policies, practices, and procedures of FCRJ.
- IMM agrees to cover expenses associated with offering programming for IMM at the FCRJ.
- There is a budget line in IMM's budget to cover the expenses of services provided for IMM alone/exclusively (not open community) by FCRJ. If these funds are not sufficient, a request can be made via the Burtt House Committee to the Finance Committee for additional funds.

Rent and occupancy

- IMM, building owner, will rent the building to the FCRJ for \$1 a year.

Utilities, repairs and upkeep

- IMM will pay for utilities: electricity, water, gas, and sewer.
- FCRJ will pay telephone and internet services.
- IMM agrees to arrange for repairs and schedule repair visits.
- IMM agrees to coordinate repair visits with the Executive Director.

FCRJ Happenings

This year's events at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) began with an online course in January, "Why Color Matters" and the "Seminar on Wheels: A History of Slavery and Racial Injustice"—a week-long journey visiting sites in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; and Washington D.C. Thirty people from 11 area faith communities took this trip. The age span was from 7 to 81 years old. The experiences and conversations were many and memorable.

On Friday, March 1 the First Friday Film Fellowship at FCRJ is the movie "Selma". This will be followed on Saturday, March 2 by a reflection and discussion from Seminar Participants and Part 1 of the workshop on "Generational Trauma: Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome" led by Dr. Nancy Cooper (Rochester Monthly Meeting). If you miss part one of the workshop on Generational Trauma, we hope you will plan to attend Part 2 of the workshop (date to be announced) which will focus on the work of Dr. Joy De Gruy and facilitated by Tommy Miller and Angela Hopkins.

Mark your calendars for our Second FCRJ Benefit Concert on March 30, led again by Annie Patterson, and joined this year by Charlie King. Please register early at <http://www.riseupandsing.org/events>, this will help us ensure that we have an appropriate venue for the event.

Those of you who have been on one of the seven FCRJ-Ithaca support teams, please email Angela regarding your continued participation on the same team this season or if you wish to switch to a different team. If we don't hear from you, we will be in touch with you.

Please look forward to next month's Newsletter to see how FCRJ is spreading to other Meetings. We will let you know what is happening with FCRJ in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; FCRJ in Rochester, NY; and FCRJ in Atlanta, Georgia. And please see last month's newsletter which includes a "Save the Date" list of this season's events.

— Angela Hopkins, FCRJ

Memorandum of Understanding: IMM and FCRJ

Ithaca Monthly Meeting will take the MOU (see left) up at March Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Ithaca Monthly Meeting's agreement to turn over use of the Burtt House to the Friends Center for Racial Justice spans three years. After taking up the MOU, the Meeting will turn to a period of discernment about its Meeting-wide commitment to anti-racism work.

Please send questions and concerns about this document to Antonia Saxon (tonia@iecc.com). The list of questions about the MOU will be used during discernment. Questions that exceed the scope of the MOU will be held over for threshing sessions later in the spring.

— Antonia Saxon

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, February 10, 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.)

2019.2.1 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 February 10, 2019. At 12:20 pm, twenty-six Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Clerk recognized Barbara Chase who was holding the Meeting in the Light and read the Mary Oliver poem, *Uses of Sorrow*:

*Someone I loved once gave me
A box full of darkness
It too me years to understand
That this too was a gift.*

2019.2.2 Threshing Session: Questions about the Memorandum of Understanding between Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) and Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM)

Clerk recounted how a Memorandum of Understanding has been circulated with an invitation to provide comments to Antonia Saxon. With the advice of others, Clerk has brought forth this Threshing Session on short notice, in anticipation of bringing the MOU to Meeting for Attention to Business in March. The intention is to spend forty minutes of our time together today in this threshing.

Antonia Saxon read the draft MOU, dated December 8th and distributed previously at Meeting for Worship and in the newsletter. She then read several questions and comments that Friends had offered and then invited those present to reflect on the commitments to FCRJ that we had made individually and as a Meeting.

Sensing that this went beyond the scope of the MOU, a Friend asked: "What stake do we have in the success of the FCRJ?"

A Friend asked about the overall cost of the Burt House to the Meeting. Mike Simkin, Treasurer, indicated that we spent \$19,000 on the Burt House last year; that includes a \$6,200 investment in the Repair Fund. \$4,284 came out of the Repair Fund for actual repairs. Discussion indicated that most of these costs inhere in building ownership, and do not reflect a significant additional cost associated with the FCRJ residency.

Questions were asked about the few IMM events that take place at the Burt House. These include midweek Meeting for Worship, the Christmas eve Meeting for Worship, and the picnic for Youth Adult Friends. There is an informal agreement that these IMM events may persist within the Burt House during the FCRJ occupancy.

A Friend described that the MOU seemed to reflect the fact that IMM and FCRJ have at times gotten in each other's way. The document does not adequately convey our aspirations for FCRJ, and fundamentally seems to lack love. A Friend who worked on the MOU related some of the evolution of the document, and suggested that the current, bare-bones draft pares away such depth and focuses on simple ends instead.

A Friend spoke of the FCRJ as a sister organization.

A Friend spoke to the history of the Meeting's regard for the Burt House, our desire to "knit ourselves into the community" when we came to Third Street, and our decision to fundamentally relinquish control of the Burt House without perhaps fully understanding what that meant.

A Friend described that the "Burt House" as an entity is gone, and we need to acknowledge and mourn that.

A Friend asked, "What is the vision of the relationship that drives the creation of this document?" We are struggling with that vision, and perhaps there has been some disappointment on both sides of the relationship.

Clerk noted the time and clarified that the Meeting will have two decisions to make: one is to approve the MOU for a one-year period providing a short extension of our original three-year commitment to FCRJ, and a second one is whether we will extend our relationship with the FCRJ beyond the one year stipulated with the MOU.

Clerk asked whether Friends were comfortable with this document coming to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in March. Friends expressed support for the idea of bringing the MOU forward for a decision next month while continuing to flesh out a broader understanding of our vision for and relationship to FCRJ. @

2010.2.3 Annual Committee Reports

Friends presented the annual reports for the following committees: Young Friends, Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH), Finance Committee, Hector Meetinghouse Committee, Hospitality Committee, and Peace and Social Justice Committee. After the Young Friends report, there was some discussion of outreach to Ithaca College. The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee deferred its report until March.

A Friend noted that the Hector Meetinghouse reported omitted mention of the Christmas morning meeting for worship. Friends received the annual reports.

A Friend gave an oral report about activities of Kitchen Cupboard. Friends spoke to the current need for the work of food pantries. @

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Minutes, continued from page 4

2019.2.4 Ministry and Worship – Letter in support of Holly White's ministry

Antonia Saxon, member of Clearness Committee for Holly White, read a draft of a letter of support of Holly's call to pastoral ministry indicating that IMM is united in our understanding of her gifts for this work. Friends approved the letter. The Clearness Committee members include Antonia Saxon, Nancy Gabriel, Nancy Riffer, Bronwyn Mohlke, Alexa Yesukevich. @

2019.2.5 Nominating Committee.

Marin Clarkberg brought forth the names of Melissa Travis Dunham, Nancy Riffer and Marin Clarkberg for the Communications Committee. Friends approved the nominations.

2018.2.6 Other Concerns

A Friend was reminded of tiny food pantries analogous to the tiny libraries that people have in their yards, and suggested it might be nice to have one on at our Meetinghouse. @

2018.2.9 Closing Worship

Twenty Friends settled into silent worship at 2:10 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

With Hearts and Minds Prepared Workshop

Saturday, March 16, 11am-5pm

A high school and young adult friend (HS/YAF) mini-retreat exploring Quaker/other methods of responding to stress and everyday life in a modern, fast paced environment. Activities such as queries, large and small group discussions, games, and activities will focus particular attention to the transitional period of life influencing HS/YAF people. The mini-retreat is open to high school aged and young adult Friends of any faith tradition (including none) and is free of charge. Lunch is provided, though bringing supplemental food is welcome.

The mini-retreat is led by Leo Quirk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting who has been an Adult Presence at numerous Powell House retreats, and is co-clerk of New York Yearly Meetings Witness Coordinating Committee. Any questions may be directed to leo@leoquirk.com or by call/text to 607-220-3223.

RSVPs are preferred but not required (please let Leo [at the above information] know if you are coming or if you might come and of any dietary restrictions. This is for planning purposes, but don't let it keep you away if you are suddenly able to make it or for only part of the time).

Join us at the Third Street Meetinghouse. The retreat is 11am-5pm, but come thirty minutes early and stay a little afterwards for more chatting!

Communications Information Gathering

Sunday, March 17, 9:15am

The new Communications Committee invites you to share:

- What are your experiences with the current communication methods, such as listserv, announcement, website, newsletter?
- What strategies, tools, or approaches do you think would help improve and facilitate general communication (such as broadcast announcements) in our meeting?

Feel free to share your thoughts with the committee: Marin Clarkberg, Melissa Travis Dunham, and Nancy Riffer.

No Way to Treat a Child: Living Behind the Wall in Palestine

Saturday, March 9, 3 pm

Sociologist Julia Ganson of Ithaca Monthly Meeting will speak from her experience in the occupied West Bank while she was a Fulbright Scholar living in Ramallah during 2017-18.

Julia says "Palestinian children are particularly vulnerable to life under military occupation. Their daily lives are defined by insecurity: restricted movement and humiliation at checkpoints, constant surveillance in the scope of a gun, threats to their families, loss of farmland, and house demolitions. Educational, recreational and occupational opportunities are severely limited. Many are growing up in poverty, in refugee camps, and with a high likelihood of being detained, imprisoned and tortured. I will relate stories of young people I met, outline some of the strategies used to negotiate this tough reality and identify the lasting effects in Israeli Jewish and Palestinian communities and cultures."

Co-sponsored by Ithaca Jewish Voice for Peace/Committee for Justice in Palestine (Ithaca JVP/CJP), the Ithaca Friends Peace and social Justice Committee, Ithaca Catholic Workers, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and Congregation Tikvun v'Or Israel-Palestine Social Justice Workgroup. IthacaCJPJVP@gmail.com.



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.

Save the Date: Nightingales in April

The Nightingales singing weekend will be held in our region April 26 and 27. More details to follow.

March 2019 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Friends First Friday Films Friday, March 1, 7p

Join us at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, 227 N Willard Way. We will see *Selma*. Questions? Call Ruth Yarrow, 206-512-0688.

Earthcare Committee Sunday, March 3, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, March 7, 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.

No Way to Treat a Child: Living in Palestine Saturday, March 9, 3p

See page 5 for more information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, March 10, 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, March 15, 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!

With Hearts and Minds Prepared Saturday, March 16, 11a-5p

A mini-retreat led by Leo Quirk exploring Quaker/other methods of responding to stress and everyday life in a modern, fast paced environment. See page 5 for more information.

Communications Information Gathering Sunday, March 17, 9:15

The new Communications Committee is listening. Join us upstairs at the Meetinghouse before Worship. See page 5 for more.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, March 17, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

Newsletter submission due Thursday, March 28, 5p

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

Last Friday Soup Supper Friday, March 29, 6p

Soup and bread will be provided. If you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert, that would be great, but you are welcome to come without bringing any food. There is no agenda, this is just a time to be with Friends.

Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, March 31, 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, March 31, Rise of Meeting

Aging, Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) is a program of New York Yearly Meeting. Our local ARCH members host a discussion related to ARCH to correspond with brunch.

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.