



Newsletter of the  
**Ithaca Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

**May 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)  
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

**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.

**From the Scholarship Committee**

We are coming into a time of the year when there are multiple choices of Quaker gatherings to attend. We have a scholarship fund that is getting somewhat low, and we welcome contributions! Spring Gathering (of our Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting) and Summer Sessions (New York Yearly Meeting) are both Pay as Led this year, but Friends may still need some assistance to cover costs. See page 2 for more information about these Quaker events.

The Scholarship Committee would also like to remind Friends that we have a subscription to Powell House, which means that one Friend from Ithaca can attend each adult conference at Powell House at no added expense. Please contact one of us on the committee if you are interested in going to a Powell House weekend. Full details can be found at [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org)

Upcoming weekends at Powell House include:

May 3-5 Clerking in the 21st Century (for Young Adult Friends)

May 17-19 Providing Pastoral Care in All Kinds of Weather

June 14-16 Forgiveness as Spiritual Practice

June 21-23 Nonviolent Communication: A Spiritual Practice and Act of Social Change

August 16-18 Creating Generous Congregations

— *John Lewis, Bronwyn Mohlke, Asha Sanaker, Elizabeth Schneider*



AER

**Meetinghouse Door Code Change Cometh May 17**

As is IMM procedure, the access code to the Third Street Meetinghouse will be changed on Friday, May 17. If you are a committee clerk or someone else who regularly accesses the Meetinghouse during non-MfW times, please let someone on TSMC know so we can share the new code with you.

— *TSMC: Melissa Travis Dunham, Gina Varrichio,  
Tony Serviente, Carl Peterson, Carol Clarke*

## Quaker Events

Register now. Scholarships are available, see page 1.

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

Everyone is invited to attend our annual gathering, NYYM Summer Sessions, which is now Pay as Led! Almost 300 Friends have already registered! For the Pay as Led process to work, though, we need as many people as possible to register online by Wednesday, May 15th. And to pay whatever they are led to pay by Saturday, June 15th. As you know, anyone can register right up to the last day of Summer Sessions, but we cannot guarantee the minimums for Pay as Led nor your preferred room assignment after May 15th. Please spread the news of this earlier registration date — and we look forward to seeing you at Summer Sessions!

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

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!

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.

Please register no later than May 6.

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! It is a wonderful time to get know Friends from other Meetings in our region.

Register by May 6 at <https://tinyurl.com/y6l5u4c3>, email [FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com](mailto:FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com) or call Bronwyn Mohlke

## **Friends Center for Racial Justice Programs**

**May 3, 7:00pm: Friends First Friday Film Fellowship.** The film for May is "Sing Your Song." Hoping to inspire a new generations of activists, Harry Belafonte allowed the director of this film intimate access to his life to document his many decades as a performer and tireless advocate for human rights around the world. All are invited to stay for discussion after the film.

**May 31-June 2 Facing Unintended Racism.** Coordinators are Barbara Bleecker and Mary Pugh Clark. Facilitators are New York Yearly Meeting European American Quakers Working to End Racism.

**June 7, 7:00pm: Friends First Friday Film Fellowship.** Mark your calendars. The chosen film will be announced in the June Newsletter and announced on the Meeting's list serve.

**Coming soon: There will be a program on FCRJ's Seminar on *Wheels: A History of Slavery and Racial Injustice*:**

In February FCRJ organized a one-week bus trip to explore the history of slavery and racial injustice through intensive seminar, and to experience actual historic sites and commemorative interpretations of the same. Thirty people took this bus trip -- from ages 6 through 80, African Americans, and European Americans. The sites visited included Harper's Ferry, West Virginia; the National Lynching Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; the Alabama Stagville Plantation and Historic Site in Durham County, North Carolina; and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

Recently there was a gathering at EcoVillage where a number of persons who went on that trip discussed their experiences. Participants spoke from their individual points of view as African Americans and as European Americans. It was a most interesting and revealing presentation. A number of Friends were in attendance, but more Friends may wish to hear about this experience. We are working to arrange a similar gathering at the Meetinghouse. It is not clear if this program will take place in May or June. Please watch for news of this on the list serve. If you are not on the list serve but want to be informed about it, send Elizabeth Schneider an e-mail ([neschneid@aol.com](mailto:neschneid@aol.com)), or call her at 273-3566.

### **How to Support the Work of FCRJ**

FCRJ has a number of ways you can support it. Volunteers are an important support. In next month's Newsletter, we will be listing the ways you can volunteer. But if you have an idea of your own, do speak with Angela. And of course, financial support is always needed and appreciated. Donations can be made directly to "Friends Center for Racial Justice" and sent to 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Funding has been secured to get the FCRJ website in good working order! But it is a work in progress. If [fcrj.org](http://fcrj.org) is not giving you what you need, e-mail Angela with your questions: [angela@fcrj.org](mailto:angela@fcrj.org). But please be understanding until the website is fully set up.

— Elizabeth Schneider

## From the Archives

Every now and then, I find things in the Meeting's minute books that aren't minutes, and are often more interesting. In June 1965, First-day school classes visited the Hector Meeting House. This appears to be the information sent to parents, with historical information for students.

The history of Hector Meeting House has been told before, but what I love about this telling is its emphasis on the family connections between that meeting and Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Even the driving directions go a little way out of their way to cross Mekeel Road and see a house of the Mekeel family. The story includes Amy Grace Mekeel, Sarah Oliver, their families, with details like sitting on the facing benches or taking a ferry across the lake – horses and all! – to get to a gathering at Poplar Ridge.

— *Simon St. Laurent, Meeting Historian*

### A visit to Hector Meeting House (1965)

On June 6 (or on an alternate date in case of rain) the First-day classes with their teachers will visit the Hector Meeting House near Jacksonville. It can be reached from Ithaca by driving on the Trumansburg Road to the crossroads in Jacksonville. There is a Mobil gas station on the corner. Turn left. Follow the road approximately 1/2 mile to the Perry City Road. You will pass Mekeel Road. (From the road you can see a large white house with pillars which belonged to Amy Grace Mekeel's grandfather and now belongs to her brother's family.) Turn right onto the Perry City Road. The Meeting House is on the right past the first house.

*There will be teachers waiting at Annabel Taylor Hall at 9:45 to take children by car to the Meeting House. We have planned this trip so that the children in our First-day School can have the opportunity to see the fine old Meeting House and to learn about the Hector Friends. Amy Grace Mekeel and Sarah Oliver, who, with their families, were members of Hector Meeting years ago, plan to be with us. At 11:30 we will have a picnic at which we hope that parents, members of Ithaca Meeting and attenders will join us.*

The history of Hector Friends begins in the early 1800s, shortly after this area had been taken over from the Iroquois Indians. In 1819, Amy Grace Mekeel's great great grandparents, Jesse and Amy Quinby Mekeel came here from Westchester County, New York. It was a long and risky journey from Westchester to the Finger Lakes region in those days. Jesse Mekeel bought 1 square mile of land four miles west of Perry City. The Mekeels were joined by other Friends who had left their homes to resettle here.

In 1826 the first Hector Meeting House was built near Seneca Lake. It still stands as a barn. After some time, differences of opinion on religious matters arose. These differences were affecting all Friends in the United States. Some members of Hector Meeting wished to have a pastor or minister and to worship as members of other Christian groups did. Others, including Amy Grace Mekeel's forbears, wanted to be faithful to the traditions of George Fox and the early Quakers in their manner of worship and dress. Half the members left the Hector Meeting to form another which they called the Perry City Meeting. It is good to know that in our times Friends who have different points of view are joining together again.

The first Hector Meeting House was too big for the remaining members. Meetings began to be held in a school house built for his children by Amy Grace Mekeel's grandfather, Charles Owen. Amy Grace and Sarah Oliver went to school there. Friends have always cared greatly for the education of their children.

The little schoolhouse became too small. On land across the road from the school house the present Hector Meeting House was built in 1902. Although not located in Hector, the original name was kept.

There was no First-day school for children attending meeting. Sarah Oliver sat with her mother on the facing bench. Amy Grace sat with her older sisters. Amy Grace' father was Clerk of the Meeting for many years as was Sarah Oliver's. Both Sarah Oliver's mother and Amy Grace' mother were ministers. This meant that they had been recognized by the elders as having a gift for expressing their thoughts in meeting. Whenever a minister spoke, everyone, including the children, stood up.

The way of life of Hector Friends was, of course, different from ours. Are you surprised to learn that Christmas and Easter were not celebrated as holidays? You would probably be interested in finding out why this was so and in learning about the good times that the children of Hector Meeting had.

Reading the Bible was an important part of the religious life of Hector Friends. They believed that spiritual life declines when the Bible is not read.

Quarterly Meetings were held with Friends at Poplar Ridge near Aurora. Amy Grace and Sarah have happy memories of the ferry ride across the lake from Sheldrake (near Taughannock Park) to King Ferry on the east shore. Passengers, horses and wagons were all carried on the boat. Poplar Ridge Friends were ready with a warm welcome.

The Hector Friends were part of the Quaker movement of their time. In learning about their Meeting we can perhaps better understand our own. Through Sarah Oliver's parents Marianna and Edward Wood, our Meeting has a close connection with the Jacksonville one. After they had moved to Ithaca, the Woods held meetings in their home on Linden Avenue. Later, meetings were held on the Cornell campus and in 1938, Ithaca Monthly Meeting was formed.

Hector Monthly Meeting no longer meets regularly. It might be classified with others over the state as an Executive Meeting still holding property. A number of Ithaca Friends have helped in maintaining the Hector Meeting House. In past summers Ithaca Friends have gathered there for meetings. We hope to do so again this summer.

## Keeping up with Leo Quirk

Leo is wrapping up his bachelor's degrees in Bassoon Performance and Photography, and is working towards having events for both music and photography in Ithaca this summer.

If you are interested in being on Leo's mailing list with updates on future work, performances, exhibitions, and publications, please sign up at [eepurl.com/gj-Q-r](http://eepurl.com/gj-Q-r). You can choose updates on music and/or photography, there will only be 4-6 emails a year, and you can opt out at any time.

The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts hosts a gallery at FGC Gathering, a national Quaker gathering, each year. This year, Leo is the visual arts curator! The theme expands on the Gathering theme, Peace in Our Hearts; Justice in the World. Recognizing that it is Love that transforms internal Peace into external Justice, we offer the metaphor of a braid of at least three strands: Peace, Justice, and Love.

If you have any questions or want further information on any of these events or the email listserv, please do not hesitate to contact [leo@leoquirk.com](mailto:leo@leoquirk.com).

### Threshing Sessions: Note Date Change

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

Please note the change in date for the Threshing Session in May to Wednesday, May 29, so that it is not in direct conflict with the Ithaca Festival Parade!

Tuesday, April 30 at 7 m

~~Thursday, May 30 at 7pm~~ (enjoy the Ithaca Fest parade!)

Wednesday, May 29 at 7pm

Sunday, June 23 after the rise of Meeting

## Area Congregations Together, June 8 party

Join Area Congregations Together (ACT) liaisons, congregations, volunteers, and community members in celebrating 50 years of ACT networking and service! The event will take place at the Stewart Park Tea House (small pavilion) on Saturday, June 8, 3-6pm.

In addition to our anniversary festivities, ACT especially invites all current and past volunteers to attend in recognition of all that has gone into making ACT a sustained presence in our county. Volunteers from Kitchen Cupboard, Lansing Food Pantry, and Feed My Starving Children, or from past ACT affiliates, such as OAR drivers.

Food, drinks, music, and community provided! Hope to see you all there.

— Gina Varrichio

## Voices Spring 2019 Concert, May 4, 4pm "Exploring Ithaca's Heritage Through Song"

Bronwyn Mohlke and Melody Johnson will be singing at the First Baptist Church, 309 N. Cayuga Street. The History Center will present a photo montage of the immigrant groups pre WWI during intermission and there will be folkdancers representing 2 of the immigrant groups. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are free. <http://acithaca.org/groups/voices/voices-spring-2019-concert-tickets>

## Ithaca Community Chorus and Chamber Singers Concert, May 11, 8p

John Lewis and Melody Johnson will be singing with the Ithaca Community Chorus and Chamber Singers in a performance of the The Magnificat by Johann Sebastian Bach and the Hymn of Praise (Symphony #2) by Felix Mendelssohn. The Cayuga Chamber Orchestra will also be a part of this performance Saturday, May 11 at 8:pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, soprano; Janine Willis, soprano; Ivy Walz, alto; David Parks, tenor; David Neal, bass. Tickets: <http://acithaca.org/groups/icccs/tickets/>

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 14, 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. 4.1 Opening Worship**

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 14, 2019. At 12:25 pm, fourteen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

Because of the short agenda, Clerk outlined the informal procedure for this month's meeting. The business to be considered is the 2018 Annual Report from the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will conclude after receiving that report and approving the Minutes. Friends will then move into continued threshing and discernment about our Meeting's work for Racial Justice and our relationship to the Friends' Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ). This worship sharing will be facilitated by Antonia Saxon and held in the Light by John Lewis.

**2019.4.2 2018 Annual Report from the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)**

Copies of the report were circulated and Melissa Travis Dunham read it to us. She responded to Friends' comments and questions. It is anticipated that issues of building use will continue to encourage further consideration by the Meeting as a whole. There are few set policies per se for use of the house & grounds (e.g. no alcohol), and TSMC does not wish to be in the role of determining what are/are not appropriate requests within the general guidelines established. @

**2019.4.3 Closing worship**

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:05 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on May 12, 2019.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Nancy Gabriel*

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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* and the origins of this tradition dates to 1656 when Quaker elders assembled at Balby and wrote twenty "advices."

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

**Advices**

17. Friends are advised to acknowledge and celebrate our interconnectedness with the natural world, and to share with our children and others our love for God's creation. We are encouraged to live lives that nurture both ourselves and the Earth. We are urged to pay attention to such concerns as population growth, climate change, sustainable energy policies, and right sharing of natural resources.

**Queries**

14. Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?
15. Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily lives so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?
16. Are we engaged in nurturing and deepening our relationship with all creation? Do we make time to open to the Spirit through contact with nature? Do we strive to live in harmony with the Earth? How can we transform our lives in witness to our right relationship with the Earth, and join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share one planet, now and in the future??

## **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.

## **Friends First Friday Films Friday, May 3, 7p**

At the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, we will show the film "Sing Your Song." Hoping to inspire a new generations of activists, Harry Belafonte allows the director of this film intimate access to his life to document his many decades as a performer and tireless advocate for human rights around the world. Questions? Call Ruth Yarrow, 206-512-0688.

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

## **Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, May 2, 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.

## **Earthcare Committee Sunday, May 5, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 12, 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, May 17, 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!

## **Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, May 19, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

## **Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, May 26, 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!)

## **Threshing Session on Racial Justice Work Wednesday, May 29, 7p**

Join us for this threshing session regarding IMM's racial justice work and the relationship of Ithaca Monthly Meeting with the Friends' Center for Racial Justice.

## **Newsletter submission due Thursday, May 30, 5p**

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

### **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.