



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

May 2006

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A Message of Hope from Rwanda

by *Mac Larsen*

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In the depths of profound despair, hopelessness can lead to more hopelessness and ultimately to traumatic depression, causing us to yield to the temptation of giving up on hope. Yet, in the face of massive problems, far more overwhelming than any most of us have faced, there are examples that can inspire us to take up the task of seeking to advance humane, peaceful solutions the task of offering hope to a world wracked by violence. I offer this recent example that can restore hope, and encourage us to work for a peaceful world.

Think of the genocide that took place in just three months of 1994, with about 800,000 mostly Tutsi Rwandans killed by machete wielding Hutus, retaliating for earlier violence against them, in a long-standing cycle that resulted in a terrible interethnic division of hate between the two groups. To put the consequences into perspective, more than ten percent of Rwandas population was slaughtered. If we compare that to the population of our own country, it would be as if more than 26 million Americans had been killed by other Americans, in a civil war between two factions which had grown to hate each other. Would American Quakers rise to the challenge to work for peace, or would we surrender to the inevitable calls for revenge?

The Rwandan Quakers felt called to work for peace. They sent a delegation to a meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, then taking place in Africa. From that visit, contacts were made that led the Norwegian Friends Service to extend help in training for nonviolence, over a period of seven years, until many messengers felt prepared to move out of the doors of the church, carrying the message of peace to the countryside. The Quakers were in a unique position to do this work, for they had not taken sides during the conflict. Other churches, recognizing this fact, asked the Quakers to take the lead. Mennonites helped with funds to set up a center in the capital, Kigali, and other groups joined. The African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams became a major player, in adapting the Quaker Alternatives to Violence Program to the African setting. The opportunity to put all of this to fundamental use came soon enough, when there were many thousands of people about to be released from imprisonment for crimes committed during the genocide. The great number of trained workers were able to offer the AVP program to many of these prisoners before their release, and the effect was tremendous: practically all of the offenders were restored to society without any further violence.

May 2006 Calendar of Events

Weekly Events:

Every Sunday 11am to 12noon: Meeting for Worship in the Edwards Room, Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell University campus

Every Tuesday 9-9:20pm: Worship in your own home

Every Thursday 4:30 to 5:30pm: Peace vigil at the bottom of East State Street

Other Events

Apr 30 Sun 9:30 am Quaker Testimony of Simplicity - Toni Murdough will facilitate a discussion with queries. Room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall

10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15 am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) – see note on April 2

Rise of Mtg Follow up discussion led by the Social Justice Committee about sustainability and next steps for IMM / in the Cul-de-Snack café ***

2 – 4:00 pm Open house at 415 Elm St, a possible alternate site for a meeting house (see below...***)

May 2 Tues 7:30 pm Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

May 3 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard on first Wednesdays and fifth Tuesdays. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

4:30-6:30 pm Open house at 415 Elm St, a possible alternate site for a meeting house (see below...***)

May 6 Sat 10:00am-2 pm Burt House Spring Work Day ***

5:30 pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion. This month we will hear the original Mother's Day proclamation in celebration of the "Mother's Day of Peace". ***

May 7 Sun 10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15 am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room, and go to First Day School classes: Infants - 3 year olds in Café, Pre-K 3-4 year olds in Room 123, Kindergarten and first grade in Café, 2nd & 3rd grade in Room 314. 4th - 7th grade in Mormon Room (3rd floor). Power

Quakers study group (ages 11 - 18) meet in the Hillel Library the first and third first days of each month. For more information about the Power Quakers, call Janis Kelly 277-1024.

12:30 pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Bring a sandwich and a half, if you're so inclined, to share with those who may have forgotten. Child care provided on request (see above.)

May 14 Sun 10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15 am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room – see note on May 7

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

7:00 pm Celebration Circle / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler ***

May 19-21 Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Spring Gathering: Speaking Truth to Power with Love ***

May 21 Sun 10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15 am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) – see note on May 7

June newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the June newsletter (see contact information listed below).

May 23 Tues 7:15 pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

May 28 Sun NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10:30 am Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse

May 30 Tues 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard on first Wednesdays and fifth Tuesdays. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471).

*** = more details will be found in the announcement section of the newsletter

Do you have something for the June newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the June newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Sunday, May 21. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Announcements

From the Social Justice Committee: Report on Discussion after “Lighten Up”

On March 26, about 18 adults plus children attended the viewing of the video, “Lighten Up” sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. The video was a call to action for faith groups. The point was made that the effects of industry that lead to global warming and the effects of the global warming itself are social justice issues and hurt some people. We are urged to take steps to decrease our use of energy, and thereby help to slow global warming.

A discussion following the showing brought up several steps that anyone can take to help. Many people are already doing these things. Here are some of the ideas:

- * Use fluorescent light bulbs (the best deals for these are at Home Depot)
- * Use reusable cloth bags when shopping
- * Use drying racks (see Wendy Wolfe for ideas)
- * The top idea for the day was use our feet and walk whenever possible.

We will feel better physically and mentally, and will be conserving energy! Fair trade coffee and cocoa was served and enjoyed.

Follow up discussion on Sustainability and Quaker Beliefs / Sunday, April 30

Social Justice Committee invites everyone to join us April 30th after the rise of Meeting in the Cul-de-Snack for a discussion of the Right Sharing minute that will be before Monthly Meeting May 7th. Following this discussion as a continuation of the discussion on April 2nd, we will also be talking about Sustainability and Quaker Beliefs and next steps for IMM. We will serve bagels and Fair Trade coffee, tea, and cocoa. Possible next steps for IMM regarding sustainability, include:

- * Meeting house design
- * Simple living
- * Fair Trade and Sister City
- * Environment and light living
- * Ways for IMM to meet sustainability challenges, including possible development of an “Earth Care: and/or “Right Sharing” Committee.
- * Other

We also report on the development of a web site, linked to our Meeting site, where information about low environmental products and practices will be easily found. Margaret McCasland is taking the lead on developing this site, and anyone who has questions about what SJC is planning in this regard can contact her at “Margaret McCasland” <mmccasla@twcny.rr.com>.

From the Ad Hoc Alternate Sites Committee

The ad hoc Alternate Sites committee continues to seek possible solutions to our seeming impasse about a meeting house.

OPEN HOUSES AT 415 ELM ST. ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

- *Sunday, April 30, from 2-4 PM; and
- *Wednesday May 3, 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

Please take the time to visit this property during one of these

Open House afternoons. (If you can’t get to either of these, but still want to have a look at the property, you can certainly drive by Elm St. and even check it out from the West Village parking lot, but please do not disturb the residents.) We are continuing to research questions about its potential as a meeting house, and we need your reaction.

It is likely that there will be a Meeting-wide discussion of the options—855 Five Mile Drive and 415 Elm Street, as well as what to do next at the land on Slaterville Rd.—in the very near future. It is also likely to be on the agenda of our May 7 [note: first Sunday this month] Meeting for Worship with attention to Business.

Friends, this feels like an important opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the search. Please make the effort to attend.

Nancy Gabriel
109 Sears St
Ithaca NY 14850-4212
607-277-8930

Peace Witness Committee meeting / Tuesday, May 2

The Peace Witness Committee will have a meeting at the Burt House at 7:30 on the first Tuesday of the month (this month it is May 2). All interested are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Kitchen Cupboard / Wednesday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 30

Friends, please note that we volunteer at the Kitchen Cupboard from 1:15 to 3:00 on the first Wednesday of every month, as well as on the fifth Tuesdays on months that have them. May has a fifth Tuesday, May 30. Please contact Ginny Gartlein for more information on how to be part of this effort.

Burt House Workday / Saturday, May 6

Saturday, May 6 will be the annual Burt House spring work day, from 10:00AM until 2:00PM. Typical activities include outside cleanup up the grounds and meditation building, changing remaining storm windows for screens, and some indoor cleaning. Children are invited to come and help plant flowers in the garden. Come and join us for as long as you can, and/or if you can, bring some easy to prepare food for the workers.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, May 6

The Perry City Friends (Quakers) invite you to a “peace potluck” on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to share thoughts, feelings, and actions in a safe haven as we explore paths to peace together. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 6th at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 7:00. This month we will hear the original Mother’s Day proclamation in celebration of the “Mother’s Day of Peace”. Learn about the history of the holiday and help create a shared dream for the future as we update the original proclamation. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Note the change in date: May 7

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on May 7, the first first day in May (so as to avoid Mother's Day). All are encouraged to attend. Please come with an open mind and a listening heart, mindful of our Meeting as a loving community and business conducted under a spirit of worship.

Second Sunday Celebration Circle / May 14

On Sunday, May 14th, Jody Kessler will be leading the Second Sunday Celebration Circle, at 7 PM at the Santosha Yoga Center, in the Aeroplane Factory Building (get in touch with Jody if you need directions / 272-0968). This month's theme will be "Honoring Our Mother: Ancestral, Spirit and Earth connections." Share in a deep, devotional, participatory experience that weaves together various elements of worship from many traditions: uplifting songs and sacred chants, prayers, poetry and inspirational readings, guided meditation and silent reflection, a short talk exploring a spiritual topic, simple, participatory ritual designed to integrate the teaching, an opportunity to share from the heart, in supportive spiritual fellowship.

Speaking Truth to Power with Love / Spring Gathering / May 19-21

This year's Spring Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will be held from May 19-21 at Long Point Camp on the west side of Seneca Lake. Spring Gathering is a terrific time to get to know Friends in our Regional Meeting. If you'd like to know more about Spring Gathering, talk with any of the following from our Meeting who have attended in the past: Elspeth Rhodin, Marilyn Ray, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Mac Larsen, Lynn Grove, Wendy Wolfe, Bronwyn and Steve Mohlke, Rini and Larry Clarkberg, Melody Johnson, Tom Ruscitti, Graham O, Ellie Rosenberg.

Meeting for Healing / Tuesday, May 23

The person who doesn't fit in with our notions of who is worthy of our love—the bag lady at the corner, the strange old man who rides through town on a three-wheel bike all strung up with flags—is just the person who, by not fitting into our patterns, insists that we expand not only our views but also our capacity to love. Today, see if you can stretch your heart and expand your love so that it touches not only those to whom you can give it easily, but also to those who need it so much.

A Meeting for Healing is held at 7:15 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau's house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). This month it will be on May 23. All are welcome to attend. If you have a concern but cannot attend, let Melody know, and you will be held in the Light. For directions, or more information, please call Melody at 272-8755.

Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse starting May 28

We will switch to the Hector Meetinghouse for our meeting for worship beginning on Sunday, May 28, and will continue through

the month of September. Don't forget the change in time as well! Meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share for our brunch on May 28, celebrating the beginning of our summer schedule.

A Note from CALM – Children and Life of the Meeting Committee

The change in location of meeting for worship brings about changes for our children as well. The children will worship with us for the first fifteen minutes of meeting, and will then gather outside for multiple age group activities. We are looking for volunteers (parents as well as those in Meeting who don't have young children) to share time with the kids one or more Sundays this summer. Members of the committee are coordinating volunteers. Take a look at your summer schedule, and sign up for a Sunday or two! Each coordinator is looking for volunteers for a particular month. If you know of a date when you would like to volunteer, please contact the coordinator for that month:

June – Marilyn Ray (mlr17@cornell.edu or during the day 539-7778

July – Ellie Rosenberg (277-1924)

August – Bronwyn Mohlke (bjm9@cornell.edu or 277-4183)

September – Melanie-Claire Mallison (mallison@cnf.cornell.edu or 272-1108)

We'll fill you in on the details of what is involved.

Memorial Meeting for Thor Rhodin / June 4

The Memorial Meeting for Thor Rhodin, who died February 17, will be held at the Hector Meetinghouse on Sunday evening, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. It will be simple, quiet, and peaceful in keeping with Friends' ways.

Remembering Thor

by Carolyn W. Mallison

When the word reached me
that Thor had died, quickly
the Spirit sent me an image
of our Meeting as a spacious grove
spreading over a hillside.
Oaks and maples, poplars and pine,
a community of many kinds and ages.
When Thor exchanged this life for the mystery,
it was like the crash of one of those giant trees
opening in its fall a new window to the sun
pouring its enlivening light
upon the leafy floor.
Broken branches, shattered bark
and upturned roots become a playground
for scampering squirrels and chipmunks,
a shelter for rabbits,
and the pithy strength within
now exposed, becomes a generous nursery
for a wealth of flourishing new growth.
Here is another image for our hearts,
not one of sorrow and termination,
but of ongoing life in a community of love.

Burt House Update

Significant changes in residents have occurred at the Burt House recently. We welcome our new caretaker, Mary Balfour and her children, Violet, Andris, and Britta. Other current residents include Phuntsho Thinley, his spouse, Cheten Wangmo, and their daughter, Jigme, who have been with us since January and are from Bhutan. Also, Kate Drennan, who stayed at the Burt House previously and was active in some of our Meeting's peace witness work, is back for the spring and summer. Several of the upstairs rooms have been painted and other repairs have been completed. Because Mary and her family need three upstairs rooms and we want enough residents for a sense of community in the house, the Burt House Committee has converted the upstairs sojourner's room to a residence room. The back room downstairs will now be used as a sojourner's room.

There are no policy changes in the use of the Burt House that affect its use for Friends-related meetings. However, Friends should be reminded of three general rules that have been in effect for quite some time:

1. To schedule a room for a meeting, call the Burt House at 273-5421 and speak to the caretaker or leave a message. Don't just assume there will be meeting space without requesting it in advance—that is not always the case.
2. If you serve food and/or use dishes during your event at the Burt House, you are expected to clean up afterward.
3. The second floor is private residence space. Adults and children who are not residents should not be on the second floor unless you have an invitation from a resident or have gone up specifically to speak to a resident.

—Tom Brown, for the Burt House Committee

Directory Changes

Please send any corrections or additions to the 2005 directory to Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke, 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 277-4183 / <bjm9@cornell.edu>

Corrections:

Corinne Everhart (child care) / home phone = 277-3862 and cell = 279-5460

Steve Parrish has officially moved out of his cottage, and is now living at Cascadilla House, which is the name of the assisted living section in Kendal's main building. He particularly enjoys visits and cards. His new address is 902 Savage Farm Drive, Kendal at Ithaca, Ithaca, New York 14850 / 257-7389

Vicki Cooley

Vicki Cooley was a member of Central Finger Lakes Meeting, and recently came to our Meeting during Christopher Sammond's visit in October, 2005. Her family shared the following message:

Victoria Baker Cooley died peacefully at home on April 10 in the arms and hands of her family, with singing, tears and thanks for her good life.

Vicki lived a full life. She lived with breast cancer the past five years, remaining active in various causes. We grieve our loss and the years she might yet have continued to help transform the world and be with family. We feel supported by the wide circle of friends whom she loved and helped.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP/NY) c/o Etta Roebig, 60 Leber Rd. Blauvelt, NY 10913.

In Quaker tradition, we will have a memorial service at a later date, most likely in early June. We anticipate this will be a large gathering with lots of opportunities for sharing stories and reflections. We will let you know the details about the memorial service as soon as they are finalized.

Thank you for all the messages of love and care that we are receiving.

John Cooley's address is: 4798 Dundee-Himrod Rd. Dundee, NY 14837

Reminder from the Financial Planning Committee

Our Treasurer has a set up special earmarked account for the New Meeting House. Although Meeting is still laboring to determine the essential aspects of a new Meeting House, that cost, and how those funds will be raised, it is clear that we need considerably more funds than we currently have in hand. Friends are encouraged to contribute to the new Meeting House fund now and in the coming months as they are able. Simply make the check payable to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, as usual, indicate on the check or in an accompanying note the purpose of the contribution, and send to Steve Mohlke, our Treasurer.

A Deeper Vision of Spirituality and Evil / May 26 – 29, 2006

The Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology [FCRP] invites you to attend a conference on A Deeper Vision of Spirituality and Evil featuring Dr. Lionel Corbett, professor of depth psychology at the Pacifica Graduate Institute.

Dr. Corbett has dedicated his most recent research and thought to understanding how spirituality functions in the world, with a particular focus on war as a spiritual and psychological problem. In his work, he has delved into the psychodynamics of evil behavior—not to dismiss the horror of the acts of terrorism, but to understand better how they unfold in the world. “Are good and evil,” he asks, “two sides of the same coin?”

The conference will be held over the Memorial Weekend:

May 26 - 29, 2006 in Annville, PA. For further information visit FCRP's website:

<<http://fcrp.quaker.org/index.html>><http://fcrp.quaker.org/index.html>.

and/or talk to Melody Johnson, Carol Kimball, Dick Crepeau or Peg Walbridge.

Upcoming Events at Powell House

Powell House is the conference and retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting, in Old Chatham, New York. Their mission is to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world.

It is a quiet, peaceful place conducive to reflection and spiritual growth. Programs and facilities are structured to foster community development and strengthen group identity.

The following conferences are coming up at Powell House. Please contact them at 518-794-8811 or on the web at <http://www.powellhouse.org> to register.

June 2-4, 2006: Experience Spiritual Healing*

For yourself and loved ones

Facilitated by a host of healers

On this weekend, Powell House will be host for a number of experienced Spiritual healers. You are invited to be a participant. Experience Spiritual Healing for yourself, share the experience with others.

Starting on Friday evening at 7 pm with a dinner together, the art of Spiritual Healing will be discussed. Topics will include the distinctions between healing and curing, the responsibility of the client as participant, self-care, and more.

During the weekend, there will be several healing sessions, some brief, some longer. Interspersed with the healing sessions will be opportunities for rest, relaxing activities, art, music and movement, or yoga.

Space for this weekend experience is limited. Registrations require a non-refundable deposit of \$50 and will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

This is a unique opportunity for a relaxing and healing weekend, open to anyone who wishes to experience and understand more fully, what Spiritual Healing is, and is not.

Healers include: Sue McLaren, Audrey Burt, & Cheryl McVickar from PYM, Frank Massey & Rosalind Zuses from BYM, John Calvi & Buffy Curtis from NEYM and Ann Davidson & Jacki Gray from NYYM.

* Limited to 20 participants

June 16-19, 2006: Living from the Divine Center: A Contemplative Retreat

Led by Linda Chidsey

In A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly writes:

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a Holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life (p. 29).

There are those who have found and those who are finding that a deep life of prayer and attentiveness to God can be genuinely compatible with an active and effective spiritual/Christian presence in the world. What canst thou say?

Come live into both the questions and the promise as we seek to establish a more contemplative rhythm and practice during this extended weekend. There will be times of group discussion and reflection; opportunities for solitude and the practice of both individual and corporate disciplines—prayer, *lexio divina* (divine reading), journaling, walking the labyrinth. We will share overnight silence and a silent meal.

Perhaps in these times, more than ever before, we long to touch the Divine Center and lay hold of the Source of our lives.

This conference begins with 7 pm dinner on Friday & concludes with lunch on Monday.

Linda Chidsey, a member of Croton Valley Meeting, is a recorded minister in New York Yearly Meeting. She carries a concern for spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Linda currently serves as clerk of NYYM.

Cost: \$210 adults, \$105 ages 13-22, commuters \$105

July 13-16, 2006: PoHo Youth Reunion 2006: Celebrating the Last Four Decades of Quaking in the ACC

Bring yourselves & bring your families (back) to Powell House! Celebrate with friends at the biggest event in the history of Powell House! Help ensure the future of the place that changed all of our lives! Registration now open! For registrations, donations and volunteer opportunities, please visit: www.PowellHouseReunion.org.

Minutes of the April 2006 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc.

Beth Jolles, Clerk

Tom Brown, Assistant Clerk

Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk

Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(@ signifies that the minute has been read and approved.)

200604.1. Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) met on April 9, 2006 in the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:45 PM, 20 F/friends settled into worship. In relation to the three minutes from

Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting which we have been asked to consider, Clerk read the following queries from NYYM Faith and Practice:

#5. Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?

#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?

#12. Do we acknowledge the oneness of humanity and foster a loving spirit towards all people? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that men and women are equal? How do we work to make these ideals a reality?

Clerk spoke to clerking concerns and her recent meetings with F/friends who were able to attend clerking retreats at Powell House and at Pendle Hill. As one consequence of those meetings, the room was rearranged to place the clerks table along one long side of the oval to bring her closer to F/friends. As another idea from these meetings, she presented a Consent Agenda containing several items from the agenda which would be proposed for approval. Clerk plans to begin trying this process at the May MM. If an item on the Consent Agenda needs discussion, it would be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the regular agenda for discussion. Clerk handed out a sample Consent Agenda with several items that were on the days agenda.

200604.2. Design Committee Report

The Design Committee requested we look at three potential site plans and consider whether we could select one for further development and approve money to develop sketches of the design.

We labored for about 2.5 hours and reached no decision. Four major concerns were expressed: (1) issues related to a one or a two story building; (2) whether the plans for parking are negotiable; (3) the need to support our children; and (4) the need to treasure the land.

200604.3. Consideration of Minutes in the Sample Consent Agenda

A. Nominating Committee: Presented the name of Mike Simkin to serve a three-year terms on Nominating Committee. Those now serving are: Garry Thomas 06, Elizabeth Schneider 06, Rini Clarkberg 07, and Marion DaGrossa 07. @

B. Social Justice Committee request for approval of the following minute: That MM send \$250 to the Southern Tier Food Bank for distribution to Tompkins County during April to take advantage of their matching funds grant. @

C. Ministry and Oversight proposed the following Clearness Committees for Membership: For Steven Parrish: Elspeth Rhodin, Tony Serviente, Joanne Sturgeon, and Will White. @

For Margaret McCasland: Tony Gaenslen, Ellie Rosenberg, Elizabeth Schneider, and Garry Thomas. @

D. Right Sharing of the World's Resources

At March MM, Marilyn Ray reported on three minutes under consideration by the Region which it asks Monthly Meetings to consider also prior to Spring Gathering. MM requested the Social Justice Committee to consider the following Minute and report back to MM at the April or May MM (200603.5).

Minute approved by NYYM Witness Coordinating Committee at its meeting

10/15/05:

New York Yearly Meeting commits itself, corporately and as individuals, to explore how we may facilitate meeting the minimum needs of all. We all have an impact. The products we choose to purchase, how we invest our money, and our lifestyles all play a role. We commit ourselves to doing research, educating ourselves, and sharing the results with each other so that we may all, as we feel led, be part of the solution.

After discussion, Social Justice Committee approved this minute and recommends MM approval with only the slight change to replace the words "New York Yearly Meeting" with "Ithaca Monthly Meeting." Laid over to the May MM. @

E. Spiritual Gifts

Ministry and Oversight was asked to look at Farmington/Scipio Regional Meetings request for action on a Friends General Conference Minute regarding the Spiritual Gifts and Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. M&O reviewed the minute from FGC and a letter from NYYM Nurture Coordinating Committee and handed out the memo.

M&O requested MM to consider their proposed minute in addition to our Marriage; Same Sex Unions Minute passed February 13, 1995.

Proposed Minute: The Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends agree that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity, and we affirm that we are all equal before God. Our Quaker testimony guides us to an all-embracing practice of human equality. Laid over to the May MM. @

200604.4. Treasurer's Report

Steve Mohlke summarized receipts and expenses for the month of March. Friends received the report. @

Adjourning

At 3:50 PM F/friends gathered into worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on May 7, 2006 at the Cul de Snack in Anabel Taylor Hall after the rise of Meeting for Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn L. Ray,

Recording Clerk for the day

Living Simply

2006 camp for young friends

Monday, June 26th-Thursday, June 29th



We are planning once again for a few special days of Quaker-centered learning, play, discovery and community. Focused on the youth of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, our camp provides all who participate with a special opportunity to strengthen our connections to one another and to Quaker values and practices. We welcome all our youth, from infant through teen. Children three and under are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.

Camp will convene from 9am to 2pm. We ask that children who have not yet attended kindergarten have adult companionship for the afternoon, beginning with 12:30 lunch.

Camp is convened by many adult volunteers. We welcome your participation! Please contact Rini Clarkberg for information, 277-9364, mec30@cornell.edu.

Registration forms are available at ithacamonthlymeeting.org/internal.html.

Friday with Friends

On Friday, June 30th, campers will host Floating Meeting—a dish-to-pass supper for everyone from Meeting—at our camp site beginning at 6pm. There will be a campfire, singing, s'mores and a showcase of some of the creations of camp.

Bring your tent if you are so inclined and be a part of our Quaker village. Camp will provide breakfast (oatmeal and scrambled eggs) on Saturday morning.