



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

December 2006

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Opportunities for Giving

First Day School: Donations to Heifer International

The First Day School children will have Christmas ornaments to share on December 17, and will gratefully accept contributions towards Heifer International, an organization that makes gifts of animals and training to families in need around the world. Recipients pass on the gifts, both animals and training. It is the gift that keeps on giving, spreading hope and opportunity throughout the world. Last year the children were very excited to collect enough money to send a buffalo to a family in need.



Social Justice Committee: Gifts for the Friendship Center and Stamps for OAR

Social Justice Committee will coordinate holiday gift giving to the Friendship Center of the American Red Cross again this year. The folks who use the Friendship Center who are often homeless (this is where they can stay during the day and where assistance is provided for applying for Medicaid, doing job applications, etc. is done) and are appreciative of what we can provide. The Case Manager of the Friendship Center has asked that we provide gift certificates and will be given the gender and ages of 30 people. Barbara Barry will bring the list on

December 3 and we hope that Meeting will respond generously as they have in the past to fill the list.

SJC will also be collecting cards and stamps for OAR. These will be given to inmates in the Tompkins County Jail. The cards do not have to be Christmas cards as clients often like to send cards to friends and family at other times.

December 2006 Calendar

Weekly Events:

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

Every Wednesday 7:15 pm Midweek meeting for worship at the Burt House

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

Events This Month:

Dec 2 Sat 5:30 pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by singing ***

Dec 3 Sun 10:30 am Intergenerational Meeting for Worship ***

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 Ground Floor Ladies Lounge; Kindergarten and first grade in Café, 2nd - 4th grade in Room 314. 5th - 7th grades in Hillel Library, ground floor. Power Quakers study group (ages 11 - 18) meet in the Church of the Latter Day Saints room on the third floor on the first and third first days of each month. For more information about the Power Quakers, call Melanie-Claire Mallison (272-1108).

Rise of Mtg Social Justice Committee meeting in the café. All interested are encouraged to attend.

Dec 6 Wed 1:15 - 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

Dec 8 Fri 6:00 pm Dish-to-pass supper followed by caroling and ornament making at the Clarkbergs' home ***

Dec 10 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 December 3
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

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.)

7:00 pm Celebration Circle / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler / This month's theme is Generosity ***

Dec 17 Sun 10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00 am FDS kids should meet in the café to get ready for the pageant

11:00 am Meeting for Worship, Edwards Room

11:45 am Children return to meeting for worship for the pageant

Rise of Mtg Dish-to-pass Christmas dinner

Dec 21 Thurs 6:45 pm Caroling beginning at the home of Tony Gaenslen and Ann Wexler ***

8:30 pm As part of the Ministry and Oversight committee meeting, Friends will be held in the Light at 8:30. Those not on the committee are welcome to hold Friends in the light at that time as well.

Dec 22 Fri 7:30 pm Celebration of Light at the Foundation of Light ***

Dec 24 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 outside the Edwards room for a multi-age kids' activity

Rise of Mtg Light brunch. Please bring finger foods to share.

6 - 11 pm Murdough/Marshall Girls Christmas Eve Open House ***

7:30 pm Meeting for Worship at the Burt House

Dec 25 10:30 am Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse

Dec 26 Tues 7:15 pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

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

Dec 28 Thurs January newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the January newsletter (see contact information listed below).

Dec 31 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 outside the Edwards room for a multi-age kids' activity

11:00 pm New Year's Eve Meeting for Worship at the Burt House

Jan 7 Sun Rise of Mtg A light lunch will be followed by a performance by the Perry City Meeting First Day School ***

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

Do you have something for the January 2007 newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the January newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Thursday, December 28. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). Please note: the January newsletter will be available after meeting for worship on January 7.

Announcements

New Friend among us!

Julian Martin Schneller arrived to parents Lenora and Tom in the 11PM hour Saturday, November 11, and was delivered by Friend Graham O. Although three weeks early, Julian was 19-1/4" in length and weighed 7 pounds. All are doing well.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, December 2

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, December 2. This month we will sing together. Bring your voice and share songs of peace. Instruments are welcome, as are songs to share.

Held at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City Dish to pass at 5:30; singing at 7:00. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

Monthly Intergenerational Worship Gathering / Sunday, December 3

Our Meeting is a family made up of Friends of all ages. Worship takes many forms throughout our week: daily prayer, family at home worship, grace at meals, awareness of the Divine in our lives, and Sunday Meeting for Worship. This Intergenerational Worship Gathering is another chance for all Friends to connect to the Light within each other. Intergenerational Worship Gatherings will take place on the first Sunday of every month.

Singing before Meeting for Worship / Second through Fifth first days in December

Singing before Meeting: Friends come join us in singing carols and seasonal music. We'll be sure to do your favorites and a few new ones too. Let us Worship in Song together.

Midweek Meeting for Worship, Wednesday evenings at the Burtt House

At the close of the last Quaker Basics session, which contained a good mixture of newer and more seasoned Friends, some energy was expressed toward resuming Midweek Meeting for Worship at the Burtt House, and we decided to give it a try. It will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:15 PM. The format will be 30 minutes of worship followed by 30 minutes of unstructured discussion and fellowship. Join us if you can.

Floating Meeting / Carolling / Ornament Making / Friday, December 8

Friends, please join us for a holiday-themed dish-to-pass dinner at the Clarkberg family home at 150 Giles Street at 6pm. We hope to enjoy carol singing, and we will have materials for making ornaments. Children may like to make ornaments to benefit Heifer International on December 17 (see more details below).

Community School of Music & Art - Annual Open Show / December 1 – January 19

The Community School of Music & Art (CSMA) will hold its annual Open Show from December 1 through January 19 in the CSMA building, 330 East State Street, Ithaca. The hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Works by Ann Rhodin are included in the show. The opening is on Friday, December 1, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Sunday, December 10

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on December 10. 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 / Sunday, December 10

Sunday December 10th 7-8:30 PM

Theme: Generosity

December 10, 2006: "Generosity"

All spiritual traditions place value on generosity and giving to others, although the emphasis and means of doing so differ among faiths. In this celebration, we will explore how we can find personal meaning in giving, and how we can deepen our true generosity during this frenzied time in the midst of our consumer-driven culture. Through music, meditation, simple ceremony and sharing from the heart, we'll reflect on how we can authentically offer ourselves-- our time, abundance, energy and love-- as gifts to one another and to Spirit.

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION: Henry St. John Building, 301 S. Geneva St., Ithaca. Suite 103 (corner of Geneva and Clinton streets)

Threshold Choir / Tuesday, December 12 and Monday, December 18

The Threshold Choir will gather at Melody Johnson's home (112 Mt. Pleasant Rd, 272-8755) on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. We'll sing at Lakeside on Monday, December 18 at 10:30. For more information on the Threshold Choir, contact Melody Johnson.

Pageant and Christmas Dinner / Sunday, December 17

The children in our Meeting will participate in a Christmas pageant as the conclusion of meeting for worship on Sunday, December 17. We will follow that with a time of fellowship and a dish-to-pass Christmas dinner. Please bring your own dishes and utensils, if possible, as well as a mug if you would like to enjoy the Fair Trade hot beverages that will be provided. There will be some extra place settings for those who do not bring their own.

Christmas Caroling / 6:45 to 8:30 pm Thursday, December 21

Celebrate the season with song! Tony Gaenslen and Ann Wexler will be hosting the second annual IMM Caroling Night at their home (220 Pearl St., Ithaca). Friends are invited to gather at 6:45pm for a little warm-up singing before we venture out into the winter wonderland to spread some holiday cheer around the neighborhood. Afterwards we'll head back to Tony & Ann's for some light refreshments.

Annual Celebration of Light / Friday, December 22

The annual Common Heart Fellowship Celebration of Light will be held on Friday December 22nd at the Foundation of Light, 391 Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, at 7:30 PM. Come celebrate solstice and more in an Interfaith ceremony honoring Light and the wonder of the season. There will be a contemplative candlelighting ritual honoring the many holiday traditions of the season, interwoven with singing, and followed by delicious treats. There'll also be an opportunity during the ceremony to offer prayers & blessings for peace and healing to one another and to the planet. All ages welcome.

Murdough/Marshall Girls Christmas Eve Open House / Sunday, December 24

Please be sure to stop in at 520 North Tioga (Corner of Marshall & Tioga) for some holiday cheer anytime between 6:00 and 11:00 pm on Christmas Eve. You are welcome to stay 5 minutes or the whole 5 hours, you just have to leave before Santa is ready to arrive. See you then.

Meeting for Healing / Tuesday, December 26

Here in this community, when I find myself feeling hurt or resentful, I realize this is the place where I can learn to maintain relationships with others even when we don't agree. If I can be open and honest, in a loving and caring way, not like people who say I'm just being honest as they tear you apart, but the kind of honesty that releases hurt feelings and yet listens to what others have to say. If I can be humble, as a person who sees my own imperfections and forgives them, and is therefore better able to accept others' imperfections. Then I can live into the way the Spirit calls us to live, in loving relationship with each other, not just despite our imperfections and differences, but maybe even because of them.

—Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting

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 December 26. 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.

For Thor

*Until now
It was my nature
To be incomplete
And his to complete me
As he says
My wishes are
Hearts and coronettes
Bells, and whistles
"My injured bird"
He called me
"My broken butterfly"
"Where do the birds go in winter?"
My Father understands
My spirit
Now that he is
On the other side
He sends messengers
As he can't be here
In person,
He being in ascension
In the evening
Sparks fly
In the sky
A burning anvil
The western sun
Makes an orange fire
In the hills
And offshore island
His broken chair
By the door to the barn
Has his walking stick
Against the wall
The ghost has risen
After a week
Of transpassing of
Art and organization
He is no longer
In limbo,
He is released
In our laughter and tears
I finally have
His approval
Now he can go
To heaven*

—A. Rhodin 9/12/2006

Perry City Meeting First Day School Performance / Sunday, January 7

The Perry City Meeting First Day School children will perform for us the play *The Bad Mother* after a light lunch following meeting for worship on Sunday, January 7 in the Cul-de-Snack Café. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Committee Annual Reports

Dear Friends,

It's that time of the year when we need to think about preparing annual reports for the committees we serve on. Our clerk, Beth Jolles, has requested that all committees e-mail her a copy of their annual reports by Friday, January 5, 2007. That way they can be distributed to everyone in advance of our Business Meeting on January 14.

I would appreciate also receiving an electronic copy of these reports.

Thank you.

—Tom Brown <tlb4@cornell.edu>

Notice of Annual Meeting / Sunday, January 14, 2007

Trustees announce that the annual meeting of IMMRSF Inc. will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2007 in the Cul de Snack Café of Anabel Taylor Hall. Annual Meeting is a special event, where we listen to reports of all Meeting's activities for the past year. It is moving to reflect on just how much our Friends do. Plan to come!

Directory Changes

Corrections:

Jill Ewing and Brien Colgen / 318 Park Place, Ithaca, NY 14850

Inge Johnson's address is 377 W Enfield Ctr Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850

Benj Sterrett and Julie Kitson / 53 McGrath Road, Berkshire, NY 13736

Mary Beth Tierney has an e-mail address: mbt4@cornell.edu

Ed and Virginia Cranch's winter address is 3871 Windward Passage Circle E-202, Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Powell House Calendar

Powell House is the conference and retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting - Religious Society of Friends. 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.

Please contact Powell House at 518-794-8811 or go on the web at <http://www.powellhouse.org> to register for any conference. Child care is available with three weeks advance notice.

December 15 - 17: WRITING: TOUCHING THE DIVINE THROUGH STORY AND SONG

(The description for this weekend was included in the November newsletter. For more information, contact Melanie

Claire Mallison. She will be going, and would love to carpool if anyone is interested.)

December 30 – January 1: NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

This intergenerational conference is a time to reflect on the past year and live in the moment with our family and friends. At our annual event we have activities for all ages including making snow people, ice-skating, yoga, cookie making, origami, sharing, story telling, and building hot air balloons. Did I mention dancing in the kitchen while washing pots & pans? This year, we're going to be doing more of the same.

Right after our evening meal on the 31st, we'll launch hot air balloons that we've created. Then it's Cabaret! Bring your instruments, a song, story, poem and/or skit to share with everyone on New Year's Eve. Jacki Gray, our cook, will have a Quaker midnight feast ready for us. We'll conclude the celebration with a brunch on January 1st. Come and be a part of this inter-cultural/generational celebration.

COST: Families \$360; adults \$180; youth 13-22 \$90; Infants-12 \$45; Commuters \$90; Scholarship funds are available for this family-centered and creation-friendly event.

January 12 – 15 SILENT RETREAT "DWELLING DEEP: AN EXTENDED MEETING FOR WORSHIP"

Linda Chidsey 1/12/2007-1/15/2007

During this extended weekend, Friends are invited to enter more fully into the silence and to experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. This retreat will include the opportunity for solitude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and "active" silence. There will also be opportunities for individual and group spiritual reflection. Come and simply BE with God; listen and attend to the Divine stirrings of the soul.

Cost: \$210 adults +\$40 School of the Spirit; TOTAL \$250

January 19 – 21: TRAVEL UNDER CONCERN: DRAWING OUT GIFTS V

Brian Drayton 1/19/2007-1/21/2007

Travel under concern can be a vital source of spiritual nourishment for both the concerned Friend and those to whom the concern is brought. Now more than ever, we have need of faithful travelers who can help us be open and faithful to the Spirit's guidance. Some of us are very experienced in this kind of work, others are not, but everyone has more to learn, from our own experience and from each other. During this weekend, we will explore several aspects of travel under concern.

This will be a real workshop, in which the experience and present concerns of attenders will be an important source of material. Topics are likely to include: understanding a concern, finding the right "form" in following the concern; discernment and decision-making while carrying the concern; relating your concern to others'; travelers and their relationship to their home meeting; the relation of faithfulness under concern to the Lamb's War.

This workshop is especially for any who are feeling led to travel under concern, whatever the concern may be. Friends who feel drawn to travel in Gospel ministry are particularly encouraged to attend.

Cost: \$180 adults, \$90 for ages 13-22, \$45 infants-12, & \$90 commuters; Childcare with 3 weeks notice

January 26 – 28: NONTHEISM AMONG FRIENDS
Robin Alpern and Joan Lukas

As early as 1976, the Friends General Conference Gathering hosted a well-attended Workshop for Nontheistic Friends. In the decades since, Friends have become increasingly aware of the theological diversity of our Religious Society. Through experience and statistical studies, we have learned a large proportion of our members and attenders are somewhere on a spectrum that includes post-christians, agnostics, atheists, secularists, humanists. How can we be nontheists and Quakers too? If our Quaker life is not centered on belief in God, what is our center? What are our challenges? How can theists and nontheists enrich each other while holding views that differ?

We will explore the faith and practice of Quaker nontheists and the richness of a spiritual life not necessarily dependent on belief in God. While sharing our theologies, we will remain grounded in what we “know experimentally”. To expand our base of knowledge, we will consider the findings of a recent survey of nontheistic Quakers. We invite all seekers – to celebrate and deepen our own beliefs and practices, and our appreciation for the beliefs and practices of others, so that we may all enjoy what Henry Cadbury called “the natural variety in Quakerism.”

Robin Alpern, a member of Scarsdale Meeting, is one of the originators and many-times co-leader of the Nontheism Among Friends workshop, offered at the FGC Gathering since 1996. Joan Lukas, a member of Cambridge Meeting (NEYM), has facilitated the workshop several times. Robin and Joan each contributed an essay to *Godless for God's Sake: Nontheism in Contemporary Quakerism*, David Boulton, ed., available from www.quakerbooks.org.

Cost: \$180 adults, \$90 for ages 13-22, \$45 infants-12, & \$90 commuters; Childcare with 3 weeks notice

Minutes of the November 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

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

200611.1 Gathering:

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) met on November 12, 2006, in the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University campus. At 12:45 p.m., 20 F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read from the newsletter of Farmington Friends Meeting (see newsletter for txt of reading), and after a gathering worship, reviewed today's agenda. The October minutes were read. @

200611.2 Upcoming Meeting Events:

Third Sunday Discussion, November 19th, under the care of the Coordinating Committee; Thanksgiving Day Worship, November 23rd; Third Sunday, December 17, 1st Day School

Christmas Celebration and meal. Our Clerk will follow up with M&O for details on holiday worship opportunities, with input from Friends.

Nancy Gabriel and Elspeth Rhodin will decide how to participate with the Thanksgiving Celebration given by the Area Congregations Together (ACT), to be held November 19th, 3-5pm. @

200611.3 Treasurer's Report:

Steve Mohlke distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. He pointed out several particular lines in the report, noting we are at about the usual place for our donations to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, and we have now paid 100% of our budgeted amounts to Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting. @

200611.4 Budget Committee:

Michael Simkin reported for the committee. He noted changes between the 2006 budget and proposed 2007 budget. The committee is asking Friends to look over the proposed budget, with its \$3000 increase in the donation request from Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Concerns and questions may be brought to the committee at any time, but the committee meets again this Thursday, November 16th. Budget Committee plans to bring the proposed 2007 budget to the Meeting for approval in December. Friends received this report.

Budget Committee members are: Dick Crepeau, Mike Simkin, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Chuck Mohler, and Lenora Schneller. @

200611.5 Meetinghouse Financial Planning Committee:

Tom Brown distributed a Meetinghouse Financial Feasibility Survey Report Summary and reported for the committee. The committee encourages Friends to read the full report, available online or through a committee member. Tom went over the data summarized in this report. Friends received the report and wish to acknowledge the work that went into this survey.

Financial Planning Committee members are: Tom Brown, Rini Clarkberg, Ed Cranch, Tony Gaenslen, Mac Larsen, and Steve Mohlke. @

200611.6 Nominating Committee:

Marion DaGrossa distributed the proposed nominations for 2007, for comment and questions. The committee intends to bring the 2007 nominations to the Meeting for approval in December. Friends received the proposal.

Nominating Committee members are: Rini Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa, Elizabeth Schneider, Mike Simkin, and Garry Thomas. @
At 3:00 p.m., F/friends settled into worship before adjourning.

We will meet again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on December 10, 2006, in the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University campus, at the rise of Meeting for Worship.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melanie-Claire Mallison
Recording Clerk*

Please note that all reports mentioned herein are available through the committee reporting or the Recording Clerk.