



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

March 2007

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## Looking for a Godly Outcome

by David Watt

*Six Ithacans journeyed to Powell House for the February 23-25 workshop led by Arthur Larrabee, "Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence." The weekend was rich with materials to consider, exercises to experience, and plenty of sharing among the twenty-seven participants. Over time the IMM members who were there would like to share bits of this treasure with our whole community. This article has been a big help to me.*

— Nancy Gabriel

When Friends talk about our meetings for business, we sometimes talk about "discerning the will of God."

Friends talk that way, in part, because we wish to remind ourselves that Friendly organizations ought to make decisions on different grounds and in different ways than do other sorts of organizations. We ought not, we believe, to make our decisions by standards dictated by the marketplace or by national opinion. And we ought not, we think, to make our decisions on the basis of avoiding doing anything that might make us uncomfortable: good decisions often produce a certain amount of discomfort.

Talking about the will of God is a good way to remind ourselves how peculiar our discernment processes ought to be. For that reason, references to God's will often have a highly salutary effect on Quaker meetings.

However, there might also be something to be said for using an alternative phrase. The one I have in mind is "looking for a Godly outcome." When we speak that way, we are less tempted to think that there is only one possible outcome of which God would approve. (God might want us to give \$1,500 next year to help provide clean drinking water to people in Sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, she might want us to give \$1,800

for such a project. It is by no means obvious that there is a single will of God on this issue.) When Friends speak of looking for a Godly outcome we also give ourselves lots of room to see differences between Friends as a positive good rather than an obstacle that needs to be overcome. (The differences between Friend X and Friend Y concerning a particular matter do not have to be seen as the result of one Friend having come closer to discerning the will of God than the other one has. Both friends might be attracted to an outcome that would be genuinely Godly).

Speaking of finding a Godly outcome is helpful in another way as well. Doing so reminds us of an important bit of Quaker theology. For Quakers, God can never be simply something outside of us and above us. Quakers believe that God is, in a real sense, a part of us. Thus it might not be appropriate for Quakers to assume that God has already made up her mind what the outcome of any given meeting for business ought to be before that meeting has taken place, or for them to assume that the job of a meeting for business is to try to come up with the same answer that God has already come up with. That makes it sound a little like Quakers are playing a parlor game in which we are trying to read God's mind.

It might be helpful for us to entertain the possibility that meetings for business can be instruments that God uses to discover for herself what a Godly outcome might be. According to this way of looking at things, God could be seen pictured as sitting with us in our meeting for business. She has willingly taken on our limitations as well as our gifts. She is there with us: perhaps a little tired, but still knitting patiently and very much willing to learn something new.

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# Announcements

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## Do you have something for the April newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the April newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Tuesday, March 27. (277-4183 / [bjm9@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm9@cornell.edu) / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). The April newsletter will be available on April 1.

## A Journey through Quaker Business / continuing on Thursday evenings, through April 5

You are invited to participate in an information and discussion series aimed at improving the quality of IMM's monthly business meetings.

March 1 – Meeting For Business: Are we prepared?

Mar. 15 – Clerk Please! Conduct during Meeting for Business

Mar. 29 – Seeking Unity

Apr. 5 – It All Ends with Meeting for Worship

These Thursday evening sessions will be held at the Burt House beginning at 6:45 and ending at 8:45. This series is being organized by Tom Brown, Beth Jolles, Melanie Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Ellie Rosenberg and Mary Beth Tierney. This group formed out of enthusiasm that followed a Clerking Workshop at Powell House last February. After our first couple group of meetings, our clerk implemented a few changes during Business Meeting that were noticed and favorably commented on by several people. Encouraged, the group decided to try this information and discussion series in an effort to create some shared experience about all of our hopes and desires for Meeting for Business.

Please note: child care can be arranged either at the Burt House, or child care in your home can be reimbursed by the Meeting. Please contact Steve Mohlke for further information.

## Annual Talent Night / Saturday, March 3

Our annual Talent Night will be Saturday, March 3. All forms of talent are encouraged, whether it's visual art, performance art, or culinary art.

Talent Night begins with a dish-to-pass supper at the Burt House at 5:30 pm. The performances begin about 7pm with intermission and dessert around 8pm.

## Standing Up: Stories of Women in Peace and Social Action / Sunday, March 4 9:30 a.m.

Lee-Ellen Marvin will be previewing a presentation entitled "Standing Up: Stories of Women in Peace and Social Action" on Sunday March 4, 2007 at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Room 314. Lee-Ellen Marvin created "Standing Up" from interviews, newspaper reports, and reports of women in history, and current times, across the country and in rural New York, standing up, speaking out, and making noise. "Standing up" is made possible in part with public funds from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County and the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program.

## Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, March 3

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. This month's topic is war tax resistance. Observe as an experienced war tax resister counsels someone considering the first steps. Ask your own questions and join the discussion. It will be on Saturday, March 3 at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 7:00. For more information, call Mary Graham at 387-9046.

## Planning for Energy Descent in Tompkins County / Tuesday, March 6

The Social Justice Committee is offering a presentation by TCLocal to the Meeting on 3/6/07 starting at 6 pm with a dish-to-pass dinner followed by the presentation at 7 pm. It will take place at the Burt House at 227 Willard Way in Ithaca. Don't worry if you don't have food to share as there will be enough for all if some bring a contribution of food. Come join what is sure to be a lively presentation and discussion.

Whether we voluntarily reduce our use of fossil fuel to deal with climate change or are forced to do with less as a result of oil depletion, it's becoming increasingly clear that we face a future in which we will be using much less energy, with profound and unavoidable consequences for our way of life. The effects of energy descent include reduced material wealth, economic upheaval, high food prices, reduced mobility, and shorter manufacturing and retail supply chains. No combination of technical fixes will be able to change the basic outlines of this future reality.

TCLocal is a group of citizens researching and planning for energy descent in Tompkins County. This presentation describes the problems that TCLocal is researching and the steps we should be taking now to prepare for self-sufficiency and a more local way of living.

## Calypso Beach Party at the Murdough/ Marshall Cabana / Saturday, March 10

Toni Murdough invites you to a Calypso Beach Party 2007 Saturday March 10, 2007 6 p.m.

The Murdough/Marshall Cabana

520 North Tioga Street, Ithaca (corner of Marshall & Tioga)

Bring your appetite for island fare

Wear your favorite tropical tourist attire

Adults and kids all welcome (dust off your back brace, it's limbo time!)

RSVP Regrets only 273-9037

## Daylight Savings Time begins early this year / Sunday, March 11

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 11.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Sunday, March 11**

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on March 11. 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.

## **Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship / Sunday, March 11 and Saturday, March 31**

The Second Sunday Celebration Circle is the second Sunday of every month, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Adults and teens welcome.

March 11, 2007: "Go With The Flow"

The popular phrase "go with the flow" actually expresses one of the central principles of ancient Taoist wisdom. Known as "wu wei" or non-doing, it is a way of living that embraces harmony, balance, and alignment with the natural way of things. Often mistaken for passivity or laziness, wu wei is actually a powerful way of being in relationship to life. Through song, poetry, simple ritual, meditation, and sharing, we will explore what this means to us on a personal level. In addition, Nat Ferris will share with us how the Taoist path has been meaningful to him, and he will lead us in some gentle chi gung exercises.

Spring Celebration for All Ages  
Saturday March 31st, 7:30 PM

Save the date! More info to come soon on [www.common-heart.org](http://www.common-heart.org).

Our celebrations take place at the Henry St. John Building, 301 S. Geneva St., Ithaca, suite 103. Enter the building through the playground side ramp entrance. We are downstairs, first door on the left. The building is wheelchair accessible, and there is plenty of free parking.

## **Peace Witness Committee / Tuesday, March 13**

Peace Witness Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Burt House at 7:30 PM. Help us find ways to live and share Friends' Peace Testimony. If you wish to share some thoughts and ideas with us, but cannot join the Committee on a long term basis, you are welcome. If you wish to be part of the Committee, you are welcome. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 PM at the Burt House. Please contact Elizabeth Schneider if you have any questions, comments or suggestions: 273-3566 or [NESchneid@aol.com](mailto:NESchneid@aol.com).

## **Threshold Choir / Tuesday, March 13**

The Threshold Choir will meet at Melody Johnson's home (112 Mt Pleasant) on Tuesday, March 13 at 7-9 pm and will decide when to sing at Lakeside.

## **Interfaith Candlelight Peace Vigil On Friday, March 16 at 7:00 pm**

Interfaith Candlelight Peace Vigil On Friday, March 16, from 7PM to 8:30PM in DeWitt Park (downtown Ithaca at the corner of Buffalo and Cayuga Sts), there will be a candlelight peace vigil. The rain location is the First Presbyterian Church. This vigil was initiated by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and is co-sponsored by many faith groups, including our Meeting's Peace Witness Committee. This vigil is being held in coordination with the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq event in Washington, D.C. ([www.christianpeacewitness.org](http://www.christianpeacewitness.org)). There will be silence, singing and praying at the vigil, as we inspire each other to work toward the goals of ending the occupation of Iraq, bringing our troops home, rebuilding Iraq, saying no to torture and yes to justice. If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth at 273-3566 or [NESchneid@aol.com](mailto:NESchneid@aol.com).

## **Report from Peace Witness Committee**

A coalition of local organizations, ad hoc committees and individuals are working to mark the 4th year of war in Iraq, calling for a county-wide mobilization! Since the invasion of Iraq on March 19, 2003, it is estimated that over 500,000 Iraqis have met violent deaths (Lancet, Oct, 2003). The official number of US troops killed is 3,155 and growing. The official number of U.S. soldiers wounded is over 22,000. A disproportionate number of U.S. soldiers dead and wounded are from rural America, including Tompkins County.

*Interfaith Peace Vigil*, March 16 in Dewitt Park, 7-8 pm. Organized by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and cosponsored by many local faith groups including our Peace Witness Committee, this vigil is in conjunction with the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq that will take place at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on that date. (see more details above)

*Tompkins County Marches for Peace*, March 17. Contingents from all over the county—Trumansburg, Enfield, Danby, Lansing, Groton, Dryden, Ulysses, Caroline and Newfield—will march on Saturday, March 17 to the Commons in downtown Ithaca. Marchers will converge at 3pm on the Ithaca Commons for a rally and speakers.

Some hardy marchers will cover the whole distance; others will join up along the route or at designated meeting places on the outskirts of Ithaca and then proceed to converge on the Commons. The special and unique aspect of this march is its emphasis on county-wide participation identifying the marchers with their neighborhoods rather than the organizations that have planned the event.

Marches from neighborhoods: 12:00 Noon

Rally on the Commons: 3:00 pm

Check the web site for area coordinator contacts:

<http://www.ithacapeacevigil.org/>

At the time of this writing, specific plans for the rally are still under construction, but the themes of the rally will be:

- the illegality of the war
- honoring those who have died
- war's consequences for our communities
- the growing threat of war with Iran

## Quaker Journey / Sunday, March 18

On Sunday March 18 at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314 Don and Mary Ann Crist will share their Quaker Journey with us. Don and Mary Ann are visiting with our Meeting while staying in Ithaca as part of an extended trip to various parts of the US and Europe. In this way their spiritual journey overlaps with their physical journey! Don was a pastor of Quaker meetings (Friends churches) for 25 years in various meetings in Ohio and in Kansas, and most recently served as a Methodist pastor. Mary Ann was an active member of the Binghamton meeting (and attended Ithaca Meeting) for 10 years in the 1970's.

## Meeting for Healing / next gathering will be Tuesday, April 24

SWEET DARKNESS

*—Time to go into the dark  
where the night has eyes  
to recognize its own.*

*There you can be sure  
you are not beyond love.  
The dark will be your womb tonight.*

*The night will give you a horizon  
further than you can see.*

*You must learn one thing.  
The world was made to be free in.*

*Give up all the other worlds  
except the one to which you belong.*

*Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet  
confinement of your aloneness  
to learn*

*anything or anyone  
that does not bring you alive*

*is too small for you.*

*—David Whyte*

Friends—there will be no Meeting for Healing in March. It will resume on the fourth Tuesday in April (the 24th) as usual at 7:15 at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau's house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). For more information, please call Melody at 272-8755.

## Announcement for All parents of First Day School-age Children

First Day School has a list serve where we publish announcements of interest to parents and teachers of First Day School (FDS) students. If you have not signed up for this list serve, we strongly suggest you do. It is the only way we have to communicate with parents and teachers. Please note it is NOT an active list serve, so you do not need to be concerned about overloading your incoming messages.

To subscribe please going to the following website: <http://lists.ithacamonthlymeeting.org/mailman/listinfo/fds>, and follow the directions.

If you have any problems getting on this list-serve, please contact: Marilyn Ray (Clerk of CALM) at: <MLR17@cornell.edu>.

## Kitchen Cupboard: The Feinstein Million Dollar Grant

The Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard is proud to participate in this annual challenge during the months of March and April. Any food or monetary donations received at the cupboard during these two months will count toward increasing the cupboard's portion of the Feinstein grant. Last year the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard received \$306 from this challenge.

Friends should be aware that our monthly contributions to the Cupboard are greatly appreciated. Each dollar can get us up to 6 lbs of food. We are also the only food pantry who supplies diapers and infant food/formula regularly as well as personal care items. Last month we served over 500 individuals. We distribute more than 10,000 lbs. of food and personal care items each month. Please contact Ginny Gartlein if you would like to assist and/or have questions about our participation at the cupboard.

*—Ginny Gartlein, 272-3471*

## New in the Library: The Way of Peace: Exploring Nonviolence for the 21st Century

The Way of Peace: Exploring Nonviolence for the 21st Century, Revised and expanded by Shannon McManimon (Pax Christi, 2003)

Acknowledging that our world is filled with violence and suggesting that violence may even be accorded the status of a religion, the authors call upon people of faith to re-examine the teachings of Jesus and to study nonviolence. "Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to be peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus."

The reader is challenged by the question: "Can we end the glorification of violence?" The ten thoughtful and well-organized chapters discuss the tradition of nonviolence as practiced by Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dorothy Day and Cesar Chavez and Lech Walesa and others of many parts of the world. We are encouraged to consider the multiple forms of violence: poverty, abuse, environmental destruction, war, hatred. The book will provide very enjoyable reading for its well-documented examination of the history of nonviolence, but it is especially intended for use by teachers, study groups, classes, people of all ages, and particularly young people in their teens and twenties. Each chapter contains the elements of prayer, study, and action as it challenges us to take initiatives for peace. Each chapter also

includes a wealth of reference information, bibliography, and inspiring quotations, poems and excerpts.

Check out this new book. It's on the PEACE shelf in the Meditation room of the Burt House.

## Burt House Vacancy

We have a room available for rent at the Burt House at \$320 per month. The room has a partial bath with it. Renters have shared kitchen space, access to other shared space upstairs, and are welcome to use other areas of the house when they are not being used by Meeting or occasional outside groups. Laundry facilities are also provided. Renters need to be responsible and comfortable with Friends ways and communal living. For further information contact Mary Balfour, the Burt House caretaker, at 273-5421 or 342-6657 (cell).

Thank you for making anyone you know who may be looking for a room aware of this vacancy.

—Tom Brown

## Directory Changes

Please send any corrections or additions to the 2007 directory to Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke, 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 277-4183 / <bjm9@cornell.edu>

Corrections:

MarionDaGrossahas a new e-mail address: mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com

Jan Kelly Philpot's phone number is 256-0256; she no longer uses her e-mail.

## AguaClara's Recent Trip to Honduras / by Melissa Wrolstad

This January I took a two week trip to Honduras with my project team Aguaclara (which means Clear Water in Spanish.) My team, consisting of eighteen engineers, works on building sustainable water treatment plants in areas of Honduras that do not have access to clean water. On the trip we visited many of the current water treatment plants that are being used (most in dismal shape), we visited cities that we will potentially build water treatment plants in, and we visited the two water treatment plants that our project has already designed and constructed.

I had many memorable experiences on the trip, including no heated water (many frigid showers), traffic stopping for large pigs crossing the street, zip-lining on a canopy tour, soda frequently served in a bag with a straw, and drinking coconut milk from a coconut that I saw someone pick and use a machete to open. I was most touched by the people that I met along the way. They were some of the kindest and happiest people that I've ever met. The wealthiest people I met along the way were probably much poorer than lower-middle class here in Ithaca. However, they had so much wealth in connections with their family and community that they seemed richer than most people I know.

Our class put together a collective journal and a website with pictures from the trip. If you have access to the Internet, go to <http://eswserver.cee.cornell.edu/aguaclara/teams/Journals.html> (Note from Bronwyn: if you don't have access to the Internet and would like to read Melissa's journal, let me know, and I'll print a copy for you.)

## The Cadbury Family: The Sweet Smell of Success (documentary)

If you did not get a chance to attend the adult discussion and socializing in February and would like to see the documentary "The Cadbury Family: The Sweet Smell Of Success," it belongs to our Meeting and is available to borrow. It discusses how the Cadbury family blended their Quaker beliefs into their candy business. Contact Melissa Travis Dunham or look for it in our Meeting library at the Burt House.

## Social Justice Committee / Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee and Cocoa

Our pre-order system has been changed to by-the-bag sales. The following items are for sale at third First Day brunch and at SJC events:

By the Cup:

Suggested Donation 50 cents

By the Bag:

Fair Trade Coffee and Cocoa Prices

### COFFEE

12 ounce bags—\$6.25 per bag

Breakfast Blend—Drip

Breakfast Blend—Whole bean

French Roast—Drip

French Roast—Whole bean

### DECAF COFFEE

12 ounce bags—\$7.25 per bag

Full City Roast—Drip

### BULK WHOLE BEANS

2 pound bags—\$13.70 per bag

French Roast

### COCOA

Hot Cocoa Mix—12 ounce can—\$4.80 per can

Hot Cocoa Mix—5 pound bag—\$21.00 per bag

We ordered cases of those items that were most popular when people placed individual orders last November. If you are not able to buy coffee, etc, at the brunch, you can also make arrangements directly with Simon St. Laurent to get items at a future Meeting, or to make other arrangements—if they are convenient for both you for Simon. We will place another order once most of the current order is sold. We will continue to order whatever items sell out regularly.

### Special Orders

You may add a special order to our next order by contacting Carol Mohler at 539-6454 or [cmkmohler@frontiernet.net](mailto:cmkmohler@frontiernet.net). Special orders must be in full case increments. Equal Exchange does give the option to order some products in mixed cases, but this is more complicated and expensive, so we are not offering this option. If a case contains more than you want, you could share a case with a f/Friend, just let us know the item and number of cases that you want and to whom we should give the order.

Some of the items available through the AFSC Coffee project that we have not yet ordered include: organic Fair Trade teas, flavored coffees, chocolate bars, and baking cocoa.

The best link to see the full AFSC Coffee Project product line is <[www.equalexchange.com/ifPDF/AFSCorderform.pdf](http://www.equalexchange.com/ifPDF/AFSCorderform.pdf)>

The best link for an overview of the AFSC Coffee Project is <[www.equalexchange.com/afsc](http://www.equalexchange.com/afsc)>

## Area Congregations Together (A.C.T.)

Please, would you bring your once loved and read children's books in a bag to the Meeting. Truly a wonderful, unifying project for C.A.L.M. to share needs in the Community.

Together we need to be aware that up to 60% of toddlers and preschoolers who have speech and language delays will experience disorders later in life, obviously affecting their ability to contribute to their Community.

Books are not only valuable for treating current delays, but also serve as preventive treatment. A.C.T. will share the collected books with children in our community.

with Love Blessings,  
—Elsbeth

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## EVENTS IN WIDER QUAKER CIRCLES

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### NYYM Spring Sessions / April 13-15

NYYM Spring Sessions will be held at Chautauqua on April 13 – 15. If you are willing to host Friends traveling to the gathering either Thursday evening, April 12, and/or Sunday evening, April 15, please get in touch with Bronwyn Mohlke or Joan Overman, of Elmira Meeting <[joverman@stny.rr.com](mailto:joverman@stny.rr.com)> 962-1554.

### AFSC has a new Website

AFSC has a great new website which you can access at: [www.friendsforpeace.org](http://www.friendsforpeace.org) or from our home page: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org). There are some wonderful photos already up on the site, but best of all, you and your friends can download signs and be creative in making your own.

### Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (FCRP) / May 25 - 28

The Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (FCRP) is one of the best-kept secrets of the Religious Society of Friends. An intriguing weekend devoted to providing a respite for individuals of all spiritual and religious backgrounds who wish to delve more deeply into their inner world. For more information, check the web sites below or contact Peggy Walbridge, Carol Kimball, Dick Crepeau or Melody Johnson. Car pooling from Ithaca is possible.

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

Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology  
Presents: Eco-Centric Development  
Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche  
with Bill Plotkin, Ph.D.

Memorial Day Weekend May 25 - 28, 2007  
Lebanon Valley College Annville, PA

To encounter the soul is to discover the truth at the center of the image you were born with, a truth that reveals the nature of your gift, your particular way of belonging to the world, the wellspring of your passion, and the path to your greatest fulfillment.

This year's speaker Bill Plotkin has spent nearly three decades studying human development; specifically how the soul grows and unfolds in relationship to nature. Bill has traveled well beyond his academic training, including a doctorate in psychology from the University of Colorado, to submerge himself in nature and absorb her lessons. At his Animas Valley Institute in Colorado, and elsewhere in the world, he leads expeditions into the wilds of deserts and mountains. Here participants find ways to connect to life's deeper mysteries, including those of their own soul.

Bill's personal experience and research suggest that from Infancy to Elderhood there are eight stages of eco-centric (as opposed to ego-centric) human development. In each stage, there is an archetype, a cultural task and a task in nature required before we can graduate to the next stage. He will articulate these stages for us. Bill also will address the ways our culture fails to support the journey to soul-infused adulthood and authentic elderhood and how each of us can begin to right this wrong. He will guide us through exercises in nature to bring experiential reality and depth to his ideas. Bill draws on dreams, the natural world, poetry, depth psychology, and many cross-cultural soul-encounter practices such as vision fasting, council, and conversations across the species boundaries.

Bill will also offer his four-pronged nature-based model for wholeness. In each of the four directions of the compass, he sees both an aspect of our wholeness and an aspect of our woundedness. Throughout the weekend, Bill promises to take us beyond linear, theoretical thinking into the process of soul crafting within the richness of nature. His conviction is that as we evolve into individuated people true adults and elders we become the essential seeds for a cultural renaissance: a flowering desperately needed for our Planet's survival.

Bill Plotkin, Ph.D., is the author of *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche*. He has just completed a new manuscript with the working title *A Natural History of the Soul: The Ecopsychology of Human Development*.

## Powell House / Upcoming Events

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> for more information or to register for any conference. Child care is available with three weeks advance notice.

Descriptions of the March weekends can be found in February's newsletter.

### YOUTH WEEKENDS

March 9-11 / Slip Sliding Away / 4th to 6th grades

March 16-18 / Don't Box Me In / 7th - 9th grades

March 23-25 / The Ultimate Fun and Games / Sr. High

BLOOMING 4TH - 6TH GRADE 4/27/2007-4/29/2007

The sun is shining and so are you. We will go on a search for the tiny seeds tucked deep inside us and call them out to flower. We'll create a collage, sculpture, song or picture that shows us at our best. Plus we'll get the gardens and grounds looking their best. *Fee: \$100.*

EARTHSONG 7TH - 12TH (82 youth!!) 5/25/2007-5/27/2007

Spring will be bursting out and so will our seniors. Join us for this two-houses-full farewell to our graduating seniors. Celebrate friendships and Spirit in workshops, Ultimate Frisbee games, a dress-up (or down) dinner and the ever exciting Saturday Night Cabaret. *Fee: \$100*

### ADULT WEEKENDS

COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP: sustaining, supporting, maturing the call to ministry. Bob Schmidt 3/16/2007-3/18/2007

CORE BELIEFS OF QUAKERISM

Steven Davison, Regina Haag, Kenn Harper, & Joanna Hoyt 3/23/2007-3/25/2007

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT TRAINING OF FACILITATORS Level 3 3/30/2007-4/1/2007

Open to all who have taken the Basic and the second level (Advanced) workshops, participants will learn the skills and practices for becoming an AVP facilitator. This workshop both continues to deepen the AVP experience of overcoming violence in our lives and looks at how we can share the AVP workshop approach to non-violence training with others. On occasion called the quintessential Quaker mission/outreach program, the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) has touched hearts, souls and minds around the world leading to effective and positive personal change. The program has been used with impressive results in prisons, war zones and locations where violence too often is taken for granted at the way of life. Based on the recognition that there exists a Transforming Power which we have all experienced and to which we all have access, AVP incorporates values of respect, seeing that of God in everyone, and self-worth, as well as the teaching of important interpersonal skills into a fun yet challenging workshop experience. Training for Facilitators workshops focus on learning to be part of a team of facilitators, gaining knowledge of logistics,

skills, techniques necessary for facilitation of experiential workshops, and understanding the critical importance of trusting the process.

*Cost: \$ 90 adults, \$45 for ages 13-22, \$25 infants-12, & \$45 commuters.*

WORK/MESSIAH SING & CELEBRATION  
staff 4/6/2007-4/8/2007

This weekend has become a favorite of many F/friends and families. Whether you come to work, work and sing, work and play an instrument, or work and provide the audience for the choir - there's a place for you. We'll have childcare for the young ones while we work. There will be time to construct 2 or 3 hot air balloons for launching Easter morning before breakfast too!

The music: We will do Part I of Handel's Messiah on Friday evening; Part II on Saturday evening, ending with the "Hallelujah Chorus;" and Part III on Easter morning. To make it happen, you need to bring your own instrument. If you have a score, bring that, too. We've had people playing violins, violas, cello, flute, bassoon and piano plus soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

The work: Liseli Haines, PoHo property manager, and Katherine Wood, PoHo housekeeping manager, will coordinate the work portion of the weekend. There are always lots of things to do inside and out to get Powell House ready for spring and summer. Let us know you are coming, and we will let you know if you can bring any specific tools with you.

*Cost: a modest donation (\$50 suggested). Childcare will be provided for children 9 and under.*

EARTH, WATER, FIRE, AIR: INTERGENERATIONAL MEN'S  
YOUTH WEEKEND 4/20/2007-4/22/2007

Intergenerational Men's youth weekend - 7th grade to age 107 Yaqin Aubert & Mike will facilitate this gathering of guys. Come experience our continuity with the elements. Yaqin will lead us in a series of breathing practices and meditations. We plan to explore a waterfall, work in the garden soil, and start a fire. Of course games, Frisbee tossing and singing will abound. In many ancient languages, spirit and breath are expressed by the same word. We breathe; we share the spirit. *Fee: \$100*

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### Looking for a Godly Outcome *continued from page 1*

Sometimes when she sees how arrogant and brittle and small-minded we can be, she blinks back a tear. Other times - for instance when she sees us being teachable and large-hearted - she beams with joy. But always she is with us, hoping that she can work with us to make something useful and beautiful.

Perhaps that way of putting the matter is too extreme. God is certainly too large and too other to be captured by the homely metaphor I have adopted here. But you get the drift. It is possible that meetings for business are not really about discovering the one most excellent and predetermined course of action that God has already chosen for us. Instead they could be about learning to ask God to struggle for us and with us. Whether or not any given meeting for business is successful is determined at least as much by how open we have been to being used by God as by how wise the decision we reached turns out to have been.

*(This article was first published in the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting Newsletter in November, 2005.)*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY

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### Two workshops on Nonviolent Communication / March 10 and 11

The CRESA Center for Transformative Action is sponsoring two workshops on Nonviolent Communication March 10 and 11.

Introductory Workshop: Building Relationships of Compassion and Mutual Cooperation

March 10, from 10am-4:30pm at the Ithaca Montessori School, 12 Ascot Place (From N. Tripmammer Rd. turn onto Craft Road and then right on to Ascot Place)

Suggested donation: \$30. Space is limited.

To register contact Anke Wessels, Executive Director of CRESA at [akw7@cornell.edu](mailto:akw7@cornell.edu) or call 255-5027

Intermediate Workshop: Deepening Compassionate Consciousness with Self and Others

March 11, from 10am-4:30pm at the Ithaca Montessori School, 12 Ascot Place (From N. Tripmammer Rd. turn onto Craft Road and then right on to Ascot Place)

Suggested donation: \$30. Space is limited.

To register contact Anke Wessels at [akw7@cornell.edu](mailto:akw7@cornell.edu) to or call 255-5027

Nonviolent Communication<sup>SM</sup> (NVC) is a unique approach to communicating—thinking, speaking and listening—which guides us in transforming painful patterns of relating into new, compassionate ways of acting, expressing ourselves and hearing others. Developed by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, this practical and proven process has been used around the world in war-torn countries; in schools, prisons, corporations, social change, health care and government institutions; and in intimate personal rela-

tionships. For more information see the Center for Nonviolent Communication website: [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)

### Two concerts to benefit the Ithaca Catholic Worker and the efforts to Stop the war and close down Guantanamo

The Ithaca Catholic Worker and CRESA proudly present two benefit concerts featuring:

March 10 at the State Theater at 8:00 pm: Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul

She's been called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by The New York Times.

Tickets \$20 in advance, \$26 at the door.

March 17 at the State Theater at 7:30 pm: Irish singer Karan Casey and band

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door.

Irish singer Karan Casey and band

Irish traditional band Traonach will open

"A voice so beautiful, it's almost impossible to avoid falling under her spell." — Associated Press

Call Small World Music for family rates. 607- 256-0428

Come celebrate and support a good cause!

See both shows for a special ticket price of \$30.

They are also planning a bake sale at the concert and Leslie Schultz is looking for help with a donation of baked goods a couple dozen cookies, pan of brownies, etc. something that folks can eat at the theater off of a napkin, without too much mess.

If you can help, thanks for letting me know by email <[ls30@cornell.edu](mailto:ls30@cornell.edu)>. You can drop off your baked goods to 122 Cleveland Avenue on Saturday, March 17, 2007 anytime before 5pm. If possible, pack your backed goods in or on something that can be recycled or disposed. That way you don't have to worry about getting a pan or plate back!



The answer to last month's "Name that Quaker" challenge is of course Edward Hicks, painter of the Peaceable Kingdom. This portrait was created by Edward's cousin and protégé, Thomas Hicks.

## Hold the Date!

*for Spring Gathering on June 8th to 10th.*

This year Spring Gathering is only an hour's drive from Ithaca at Long Point Camp on Lake Seneca. Carolyn Hilles of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting will speak on *Our Money and Our Lives*. Expect comfortable lodging, good food, square dancing, and workshops. Watch this space for more information.



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## Minutes of the February 2007 Meeting for Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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*Tom Brown, Clerk*

*Nancy Gabriel, Assistant Clerk*

*Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk*

*Steve Mohlke, Treasurer*

*(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting.)*

### 200702.1 Gathering:

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on February 11, 2007, at the Cul de Snack, Annabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:45 p.m., seventeen F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read the following quote by Thomas R. Kelly, from "Holy Obedience," 1939.

"No average goodness will do, no measuring our lives by our fellows, but only a relentless, inexorable divine standard. No relatives suffice; only absolutes satisfy the soul committed to holy obedience. Absolute honesty, absolute gentleness, absolute self-control, unwearied patience and thoughtfulness in the midst of the raveling friction of home and office and school and shop."

The minutes of the January annual meeting for business were read and today's agenda reviewed.

### 200702.2 State of the Meeting Report:

Rini Clarkberg reported for Ministry and Oversight. She read the draft State of the Meeting Report, first noting the intended purpose of such a report. Concern was raised that the report does not adequately reflect the realities of the divisions and hurts felt in our Meeting, over many issues, not just the meeting house. Since we are a listening religion, we need to acknowledge that differing voices are heard. Ministry and Oversight will take the comments and suggested changes given today, and Rini will send out the next draft. Friends are also welcome to send changes directly to her. @

### 200702.3 Minute of Process:

Tonia Saxon reported on the progress she and Steve Mohlke have made on a Minute of Process regarding our feelings about a meeting house. From the request, "We remind ourselves of the traditional practice of minutes of exercise—which we also call 'process minutes'—to affirm where the meeting is at, at a given moment, when there is as yet no clarity to act. These minutes simply state the various perceptions in the meeting on a given matter at the moment, and can be helpful in building a sense of the meeting." Tonia noted that, given our earlier discussion on the State of the Meeting report, opinions are obviously missing from the present document. To further the work on the Minute of Process, she invites everyone to speak to her or Steve, write to them, email or call, so that Friends voices are heard and reflected in the Minute. @

### 200702.4 Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM) Winter Gathering:

Ginny Gartlein reported on attending Winter Gathering. She brings greeting from the Obermans and Gwen Wollney. The morning session was spent discussing the Spring Gathering Planning, which is making good progress. In the afternoon, committees reported, as well as the treasurer. Ginny noted that the NYYM Financial Services Committee needs appointed members from FSRM. Melanie-Claire offered to speak to anyone interested in learning more about the committee. Prison work is very active in our region, most notably Auburn and Attica Correctional Facilities. Five Points now has three affirmed Friends, and the Region Meeting is looking for Friends willing to start a Worship Group there. FSRM needs a new youth coordinator and interested Friends can contact Ginny for information. Ginny also highlighted Nadine Hoover's work in Indonesia and noted that FSRM has sent a donation of \$1000 to help Nadine's flood-relief efforts there. @

### 200702.5 Treasurer's Report:

Steve Mohlke reviewed the balance sheet for 2007. Friends received the report.

### 200702.6 Clerk's Report:

Tom appreciates our confidence in naming him as our clerk. He would like to state now his intention to serve a three year term, not only for his own planning but for the planning of the assistant clerk. He also noted the paradox of the clerkship—that the clerk is a leader in the Meeting and yet, is a servant to the Meeting. He will do his best to walk that fine line.

Tom asks that we enter our Meetings for Business with the intention of being together for two hours or less.

He reviewed the make-up of the Naming Committee; Nancy Gabriel, Steve Mohlke, Marilyn Ray, Tonia Saxon, and himself. They are meeting to name two nominations to Nominating Committee, and they welcome suggestions.

We received a request to review the position of the NYYM General Secretary and Christopher Sammond's work in that position. Tom solicited comments and sent a report back to the General Secretary's Committee. We also received a request to review Ken Clarke, the director of Cornell United Religious Work (CURW). Nancy Gabriel has worked with Ken and gave input to answer that request.

Finally, Tom requests committee contacts from both IMM and regional committees, so he knows the person to contact when concerns arise. @

At 2:55 p.m., F/friends continued in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on March 11th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

—Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk

(Please note that if you would like a copy of any report mentioned above, you can receive one from the reporting committee or the Recording Clerk.)

# March 2007 Calendar

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## Weekly Events:

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

**Every Wednesday 7:15 pm** Midweek meeting for worship at the Burrth 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:

**Mar 1 Thurs 6:45 pm** The continuation of the "Journey Through Quaker Business" Series: Meeting For Business: Are we prepared? / held at the Burrth House

**Mar 3 Sat 5:30 pm** Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion. This month's topic is war tax resistance \*\*\*

**5:30 pm** Dish-to-pass supper at the Burrth House, followed by

**7:00 pm** Our annual Talent Show! \*\*\*

**Mar 4 Sun 9:30 am** Standing Up: Stories of Women in Peace and Social Action / presentation by Lee-Ellen Marvin in Anabel Taylor Room 314

**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 G3, Suzanne Guthrie's room, the Episcopal Chaplain's room, 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.

**Mar 6 Tues 6:00 pm** Dish-to-pass supper at the Burrth House, followed by

**7:00 pm** Presentation by TCLocal: Planning for Energy Descent in Tompkins County \*\*\*

**Mar 7 Wed 1:15 - 3pm** Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags. See the announcement below about donations during March and April being augmented by the Feinstein Million Dollar Grant \*\*\*

**Mar 10 Sat 6:00 pm** Calypso Beach Party at the Murdough/ Marshall cabana \*\*\*

**Mar 11 Sun** Friends—don't forget the time change! Set your clocks ahead one hour.

**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 March 4  
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** Second Sunday Celebration Circle: Go with the Flow / An interfaith worship service led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

**Mar 13 Tues 7:30 pm** Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burrth House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

**Mar 15 Thurs 6:45 pm** The fourth in the "Journey Through Quaker Business" series: Clerk Please! Conduct during Meeting for Business / held at the Burrth House

**Mar 18 Sun 9:30 am** Don and Mary Ann Crist will share their Quaker Journey / Anabel Taylor Room 314 \*\*\*

**9:30 am** Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee meeting, Hillel Library, 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 March 4

**Mar 22 Thurs 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.

**Mar 25 Sun 9:30 am** Carol Kimball will share her Quaker Journey / Anabel Taylor, Room 314

**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 March 4

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

**Mar 27 Tues** April newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the April newsletter (see contact information listed below).

**Mar 29 Thurs 6:45 pm** The fifth of the "Journey Through Quaker Business" Series: Seeking Unity / held at the Burrth House

**Mar 31 Sat 7:30 pm** Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship Spring Celebration for All Ages / led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

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