



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

September 2007

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From the Social Justice Committee Composting Techniques and Challenges: A Dialogue

Why is there a composting column in the IMM newsletter? Isn't composting just for gardeners? And why is it coming from the Social Justice Committee? The Social Justice Committee is aware of many ways that Earthcare (Living Sustainably) and Social Justice are intertwined. One of the more extreme and urgent connections is that global warming is already creating "climate change refugees" who are no longer able to survive in their traditional lands.

For this and other reasons, we feel a concern to reduce our impact on global warming. And one of the most effective ways we can do this is to reduce our methane output.

Methane is over 20 times more "effective" than CO₂ at trapping heat.

But the good news is that methane breaks down in the atmosphere much faster than CO₂. Reducing our methane output now can mean less heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere in just 6-8 years! And two of the main sources of methane are the production of meat (especially on factory farms) and the decomposition of foods in landfills, where the food is not exposed to air, light or water, and can't break down as efficiently as it does in compost piles.

Which gets us to compost. The less food we send to landfills, the less methane that food waste generates. Once we began

to understand the connection between composting and global warming, we felt we should encourage as many people as possible to compost—even folks who don't have gardens!

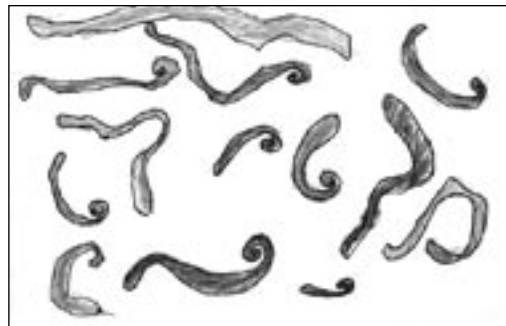
We can think of many reasons why people don't compost; we'd like to hear yours. Then each month we'll share a brief composting tip or two, and list someone's composting challenge: either a reason they don't compost yet, or a problem they are having with their compost.

COMPOST TIP for the non-composter: Not quite everyone is in a position to compost at their home. But perhaps you could donate your food scraps to a friend or neighbor who

does compost. Just pop your food scraps in the fridge and/or freezer until you are able to pass them along. Please email Margaret McCasla with your favorite composting tip OR your composting challenges: mmccasla@twcny.rr.com

To learn more about methane as a heat-trapping gas: www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000448 www.csmonitor.com/2007/0220/p03s01-ussc.html

To learn more about composting: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/compost/downloads.htm>



Earthworms by Thea Clarkberg

Announcements

Do you have something for the October newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the October newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Tuesday, September 25. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Celebration of the Life of Louis Edgerton / Sunday, September 2

Louis Edgerton, member of our Meeting since 1954, passed away on July 26, 2007, surrounded by his family. Friends are encouraged to come to a celebration of his life to be held at Kendal at Ithaca on Sunday, September 2, at 2:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Friends Service Committee, www.afsc.org or to the Edgerton Career Teaching Award, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse / Saturday, September 1

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, September 1 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 - 387-9046.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business / Sunday, September 9

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on Sunday, September 9. All are encouraged to attend. Please come with an open mind and a listening heart, mindful of our Meeting as a loving community and ready to conduct business under a spirit of worship.

Second Sunday Celebration Circle / September 9

Second Sunday Celebration Circle: An engaging and uplifting Interfaith celebration that weaves together prayer, meditation, singing, and simple participatory ritual from many traditions. A program of the Common Heart Interfaith Fellowship, led by Rev. Jody Kessler.

Sunday, September 9th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Henry St. John Building 301 South Geneva Street, 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. For more information, call 227-5683 or visit www.commonheart.org

This month's theme: "The Game of Life: Play as a Spiritual Path." Lightness, play, and a sense of adventure are essential qualities we can cultivate for living a joyful life. Artist and workshop facilitator Pamela Moss will lead us in a playful exploration of the lighter side of spiritual life, along with joyful music led by Jody.

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Fall Gathering / Saturday, September 22

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will hold its Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 22, at the Farmington Meeting. If you are interested in going, carpooling is an option. For more details about this event, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke, 277-4183, bjm9@cornell.edu.

Meeting for Healing / September 25

"In 1978 when I was eating 150 calories a day and weighed eighty pounds, no one knew to call it anorexia... We didn't have those labels then, and though they are helpful, the names themselves give us the illusion that we can get the upper hand; that we can deal with it. But this illusion itself is an illness, and everyone's got it. It's called believing we can control the future by what we eat, or weigh, or accomplish now. The alternative understanding that we are not in charge is utterly humbling and leaves us unbearably vulnerable.

—Geneen Roth, *No Matter What We Eat*

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 September 25. 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's Annual Fall Picnic Our Annual End-of-Summer Picnic / Sunday, September 30

Meeting's Annual Fall Picnic Our Annual End-of-Summer Picnic will be Sunday, September 30 at Taughannock State Park at the rise of Meeting until 3:30 pm. Bring a dish-to-pass, table service (extras will be available), and a favorite outside game. Program Committee will provide grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, black bean burgers, and all the fixings.

Make sure to pick up a "Quaker picnic parking pass" at Meeting to give to the attendant at the park gate. Friends are encouraged to carpool from Hector Meeting House or to use your Empire Passport if you already have one. We will be in the Central Pavilion. When you enter the Park drive straight towards the Lake and the Central Pavilion is on the left side of the marina.

Change in Time and Location of Meeting for Worship / October 7

Friends, we will return to Anabel Taylor, Cornell University for Meeting for Worship, beginning on October 7. Friends of all ages are encourage to gather in the Cul-de-Snack café at 10:15 to celebrate the kids' return to a new year of First Day School classes. Meeting for Worship will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Edwards Room.

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>

Additions:

Welcome to new family member in the MacNeill family: Draco Storm Sparrowhawk Dune MacNeill was born on March 7, 2007

Carolyn Byerly and Kay McGraw's wedding / October 13 (RSVP by September 20)

Ithaca Friends are warmly invited to be present at our (Carolyn Byerly & Kay McGraw's) wedding, 2 pm, Saturday, October 13, at Bethesda Friends Meeting House, on the Sidwell Friends Lower School Campus in Bethesda, and at the wedding reception immediately afterward, 4-6 pm, at Cesco Trattoria, 4871 Cordell Ave., Bethesda. The ceremony will solemnize our 23 years together. There is a possibility that our marriage could be legal, should a favorable ruling from a Maryland Court of Appeals come down on the plaintiff's side before October 13. Ithaca Friends planning to come are asked to please RSVP by Sept. 20, to cbyerly@earthlink.net; or call 301-434-4689.

Quaker Street Monthly Meeting celebration of the meeting's 200th anniversary / September 29

On September 29, 2007, Quaker Street Monthly Meeting invites everyone to join in celebrating its 200th anniversary. Please join us in worship, singing, a brief history of the meetinghouse and a time to share on "If These Walls Could Speak."

Our featured speaker will be Paul Lacey, clerk of the Board of Directors of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Paul has been involved with AFSC for more than 50 years. His theme will be "Quaker Street Meeting: 200 Years of Seeking and Finding."

We will also have potluck finger foods at lunchtime.

Quaker Street Meeting is three miles west of Duanesburg on Route 7, a beautiful part of N.Y. State.

Friends are encouraged to carpool to this event.

For more information please contact Dorothy Garner, 518-234-7217.

Tompkins County SPCA PetFest - Sat. Sept 29

The Tompkins County SPCA is holding its first annual PetFest on Saturday Sept. 29 from 9am till 3pm at Cass Park. This family fun event will feature food and beverage vendors, exhibitions, demonstrations, games, and of course, the Dog Walk-a-thon, held this year on the beautiful Cayuga Waterfront Trail! Prizes will be awarded for the individual and team dog walkers who raise the most money. If you'd like more information, visit the SPCA website (<http://www.spcasonline.com/>) or call the SPCA at 257-1822.

New books from the Mosher Fund

Every Meeting in New York Yearly Meeting is offered the opportunity each year to choose \$60 worth of books from the book

table at Summer Sessions, to be paid for by the Mosher Fund. Background information about the Mosher Fund follows the list of books that are new to our Meeting this year, thanks to the fund:

Earthcare for Friends: A Study Guide for Individuals and Faith Communities, from Quaker Earthcare Witness

Hope Dies Last: Keeping the Faith in Troubled Times, by Studs Terkel

Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into Our Lives, by Jim Pym

Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition, by Michael L. Birkel

Spirit and Body, by Richard D. Hathaway

History

The Mosher Fund derives from a bequest of \$13,100 received by New York Yearly Meeting in 1875 from the estate of a New York Friend, Henry H. Mosher. The Yearly Meeting assigned the execution of this bequest to the Committee on the Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund, which was to disburse the income received from the trustees, who hold the principal, according to their best judgment of the spirit and intent of the gift.

Around the year 1937, the Yearly Meeting asked this committee to take over the additional function of maintaining a book table at Yearly Meeting sessions. About \$300 was transferred to the Mosher Fund Committee at that time, and it has continued to be used as a revolving fund for this purpose.

Purposes & Objectives

The committee's purpose is to use the income of the fund guided by the directive of Henry Mosher for "circulating books and tracts inculcating and developing the principles of the Christian religion as preached and promulgated by the early Friends."

Functions & Activities

The committee distributes books and pamphlets written by and about Friends and concerning Friends' principles. Lately, the selections have been broadened to include books on religion and related subjects and on other topics pertinent to Friends. Literature is distributed mostly to Friends' Meetings in New York Yearly Meeting and to affiliated Friends' institutions, but also to individuals who make their books available to others in the course of their work on behalf of Friends. Books are also given to visiting Friends at Yearly Meeting. The book table at Yearly Meeting sessions is operated by the committee with a view to promoting sales of literature of the same general type as that of the Mosher Fund distribution. Committees and individuals are asked to recommend suitable publications for the book table.

Power of One Minute of Prayer

During WWII, there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who stopped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and for peace.

This had an amazing effect as bombing stopped. There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: Each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time, 8:00 PM Central, 7:00 PM Mountain, and 6:00 PM Pacific time, stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens and for

peace through-out the world.

If you know anyone who would like to participate, please pass this along. It has been said that if people really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Future Ithaca Quaker seeks storage space

Friends, I (Bronwyn) met Sue Wolf at Silver Bay last summer. She is a member of a Meeting in New Jersey, and will be moving to EcoVillage in the summer of 2008. She is looking for some storage space that could be in a non-heated space (i.e. garage or barn). It could be stacked along a wall, so wouldn't take very much floor space. She will be coming up for a visit some time this fall, and would be glad to make arrangements that would be convenient to someone who has some space to share. The best time to reach Sue is in the evenings at (718) 720-5987, or by e-mail siwolf@aol.com.

CROP Walk: Save the date: Sunday, October 14

The CROP Walk is held each fall, to raise money and awareness about hunger, both globally and locally. This year's CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 14. More details to come in the October newsletter... in the meantime, mark that date on your calendar!

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.

Note from Melanie-Claire (Clerk of Powell House Committee!)

There are many wonderful things happening at Powell House. For instance, our Youth Directors, Chris and Mike, are now working with Youth Program alum as facilitators, so that they can offer more youth conferences! Also, more Monthly Meetings are taking retreats at Pitt Hall, which on the one hand means fewer adult conferences, but on the other hand means stronger Meetings! Finally, we are well on our way to renovating the Anna Curtis Center so that it is accessible and allergen free.

PROPHETS DO GET WEARY: THE ANNUAL PEACE WEEKEND 9/14/2007-9/16/2007 Anita Paul & Laura Melly A retreat/workshop for peacemakers, justice workers, and others who struggle to make the world a better place and find themselves frustrated, exhausted, perhaps even angry. How do we deal with our anger, what is its existential source, where should we look for hope/joy/satisfaction? How do we keep on keeping on? Cost: \$200 adults, \$100 ages 13-22, \$50 infants-12, \$100 commuters. Childcare available with 3 weeks notice

PLANNING 2007 9/14/2007-9/16/2007 8TH-12TH Grades, Youth Conference We LOVE this weekend. We love to hear your ideas for conferences. We love hearing what makes programs work and what doesn't. We like imagining what future conferences could look like. Please come and share about the PoHo youth program you've experienced and the conferences you dream about. First-time attenders are welcome! Share your visions, ideas and hopes too. Fee: \$100

UNMASKING.. 9/28/2007-9/30/2007 6TH & 7TH Grades, Youth Conference Masks allow us to take on new identities, see what's it like in someone else's shoes. Sometimes they give us the space we need to freely be who we are. But they can also trap us and keep us from growing into and sharing the awesome "me" that we are. We'll play with masks this weekend then peel them off and see who we uncover. Fee: \$100.

3D-DOUBT, DESPAIR, DELIGHT 10/5/2007-10/7/2007 8TH & 9TH Grades Youth Conference Sometimes things seem to be coming straight at us faster than we can duck. Try this. Try that. And questions: Am I pretty? Will I ever get taller? Do they like me? Am I stupid? Am I smart? Will there still be a world when I'm older? We'll share those things that make us doubt ourselves or despair about the world. Then we'll take a deep breath, let go of those thoughts, and head out in search of what delights us. Fee: \$100

FALL WORK WEEKEND, CONTRA DANCE, AND STORYTELLING 10/19/2007-10/21/2007

CROSSING THE LINE 10TH - 12TH Grades Youth Conference 10/26/2007-10/28/2007 Scaring, sharing, daring, caring - Is that what Halloween is made of? For many, it is a time of transitions, of seeing the world in a different way. We will discuss the transitions in our own lives. Which lines do we cross that we can't return back over? How do we choose a good path and good actions? Fee. \$100.

DEEPLY RELAX TO DEEPEN THE SPIRIT 11/2/2007-11/4/2007 John Calvi

HAVING A BALL 4TH& 5TH Grades Youth Conference 11/2/2007-11/4/2007

Recent Minutes of the Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee shares the minutes from their committee meeting held on July 26, 2007. This gives us a glimpse of the variety of issues they are addressing. They mention that the work goals are ambitious and help from other Meeting members and attenders would be greatly appreciated.

Minutes, Social Justice Committee, July 26, 2007

(Betsy Keokosky, Margaret McCasland, Carol Mohler, Sue Ruff)

1. SJC will next meet Aug. 26, at 6 PM at the Burt House. (Note: M&O has decided to meet on the fifth Thursday in August, so we will have the dining room for as long as we need). SJC will meet at 6 PM at the Burt House on Sept. 27 and will decide on meeting time and place for Oct.-May when we meet in September.

2. Discussion on Sustainability was quite broad as we discussed several aspects and future plans. Carole will write a thank you to Hollister and we will decide on a donation amount to Quaker Earth Care after Betsy checks our budget availability with Steve M. A donation will result in receiving the Be Friendening Creation Newsletter. We will discuss having Hollister back to talk about "Awakening the Dreamer/Changing the Dream" and Carole will check on Hollister's schedule when she writes her a thank you. Margaret will check with Edi Regan about future dates for inter-faith meetings as a possible avenue for enlarging our community outreach as we hope to invite others to future sustainability talks. Margaret told us about Louis Cox and Ruah Swennerfelt's developing Quaker Witness program and the possibility of inviting meetings from the Quarterly to a future session when they are ready to travel with their program. Margaret said that NYYM was working on a minute that would be coming out of Silver Bay and would be sent to all Meetings soon. If we try an inter-faith approach, it was suggested we invite Jim Atkins to lead such a gathering. SJC agreed to the following goals regarding sustainability:

a) Provide information for individuals and support each other in efforts each person makes.

b) Address Monthly meeting conduct and offer support for several committees (Hospitality, CALM, Meeting House, etc.) around issues related to sustainability and their charges. We will tell Monthly Meeting that for now, we will continue to work on Sustainability and will not develop a sub-committee yet.

c) Reach out to the wider Ithaca Community, connecting with QEW, NYYM and national efforts, inviting traveling Friends with Earth Care concerns and arranging speaking venues that are at local community sites.

Under a) above: Margaret will write a short Newsletter paragraph about ways we can each reduce methane, how much protein we need to eat, and some do-able suggestions. She will ask people to email or call us with their composting stories and solutions to the barriers some face when trying to compost or change diets. We will try to do a monthly blurb for the newsletter on composting or other related issues that will help people in the meeting, who are trying to change behaviors. Margaret will check on Meeting web-

site availability for future efforts.

Our agenda will be emailed to Bronwyn for the next newsletter or announced at the end of Meeting, with an invitation for members and attenders to come to SJC and stay for the first part of the meeting, if they have some interest in learning about or doing sustainable projects. (Sue will send this to Bronwyn).

Margaret came back from Silver Bay with lots of materials and she will sort through them for us.

Under b) above, we will invite Gary T. and Steve M. to future SJC meetings or sponsor a First Day program before Meeting, asking them to tell us about their work. It was noted that we have several members and attenders who have knowledge of sustainability and we can draw on them for future help and programs.

3. Torture. Betsy brought several reading materials with her and encouraged us to go to websites for copies. She encouraged people to get and read "Truth, Torture, and the American Way", by Jennifer Harbury. QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture) has developed a curriculum and SJC members are urged to review it before next meeting, so we can discuss actions we would like to take. Sue will get copies or provide a website for the article, "Torture Is Not Treatment." Brief history: SJC worked for several months on a minute about torture and asked to have this minute read into the minutes of Monthly Meeting. Monthly Meeting did this and also asked us to go back and come up with ways for people in the Meeting to learn more about torture or have study, discussions, or offer additional attention to this issue. Carol told us that Mike P. had information he wanted to share and she will check with him to see if he is coming in August. Margaret will check with Gita G. If you need the QUIT site, Betsy can email it again. We are not sure if we will sponsor a work-study group with a curriculum, or a program discussion for Meeting. This will be discussed next time. As we outlined goals around sustainability, we are outlining goals in much the same way around the issue of torture. It can touch lives personally, the Meeting as a whole, and the wider community.

4. Elizabeth is going to visit the Worship Service at Auburn Prison and she shared a letter she had prepared in response to a letter from the Clerk of Auburn Prison Meeting. The letter was reviewed, revised and will be sent.

5. Sue asked SJC to consider inviting Fahima Vorgetts to come to Ithaca, bring items from Afghanistan to sell, and tell us about the girls' school she is helping to build with sales of items from her home country. Fahima has a ride to Ithaca and we discussed co-sponsors for a visit. Sue will follow-up and contact her about times, venues, format. Sue will check with Peace Action to see if they want to co-sponsor and Margaret will check with some of the people who helped with Eyes Wide Open. We will discuss this more next time. We would love to have her talk with children about the life of children in her country. Elizabeth's checking with Steve about our budget will help us determine how to use our resources to bring her here as well as people for Sustainability and we will discuss this next time, as well.

Possible Agenda for August 26, 2007 1. Sustainability Updates and Plans 2. Torture Discussion 3. Auburn Prison Meeting 4. Fahima's Visit

Calendar for September 2007

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

Sept 1 Sat 5:30 pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion ***

Sept 2 Sun 10:00 am Singing at the Hector meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Hector meetinghouse

10:45 am Children are welcome to go out back for kids' activities

2:00 pm Memorial service for Louis Edgerton at Kendall ***

Sept 5 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember—Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

Sept 9 Sun 10:00 am Singing at the Hector meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Hector meetinghouse

10:45 am Children are welcome to go out back for kids' activities

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

Rise of Mtg 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: The Game of Life: Play as a Spiritual Path ***

Sept 11 Tues 7:30 pm Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

Sept 16 Sun 10:00 am Singing at the Hector meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Hector meetinghouse

10:45 am Children are welcome to go out back for kids' activities

Sept 22 Sat All day event Fall Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting / at Farmington Meeting ***

Sept 23 Sun 10:00 am Singing at the Hector meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Hector meetinghouse

10:45 am Children are welcome to go out back for kids' activities

Sept 25 Tues October newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the October newsletter ***

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

Sept 27 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.

Sept 30 Sun 10:00 am Singing at the Hector meetinghouse

10:30 am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Hector meetinghouse

10:45 am Children are welcome to go out back for kids' activities

Rise of Mtg Our Annual End-of-Summer Picnic / Taughannock State Park ***

Oct 7 Sun 10:15 am Welcome back to First Day School celebration / Cul-de-Snack café ***

11:00 am Meeting for Worship in the Edwards Room / Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell

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

Advices & Queries

This month's advices and queries from NYYM Faith & Practice for your contemplation:

Advice 2: Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct, and to encourage the practice by their families and others.

Advice 3: Friends are advised to be mindful of their conduct and conversation and to observe the testimonies of simplicity and moderation.

Query 2: Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

Query 3: Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?