



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

January 2008

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General Secretary's Report, Fall Sessions 2007:

## Growing in the Spirit

—by Christopher Sammond



A lot of my work is making connections—between one Friend or meeting's need and a particular resource, between one Friend who has a particular leading and others who share that same leading, and between Friends with common spiritual experience or common hunger. Making those connections is wonderfully gratifying. Being able to make those connections comes from a broad-based knowledge of this Yearly Meeting and how the Spirit is moving amongst us.

So while I expect that some of what I will share about our collective life is known to many of you, and thus risks being “old news,” I am confident that most everyone here will not know about all of the many things that are going on across our community. I want to try to convey to you the vibrancy of what Spirit is doing through us and in us.

I see us continuing to do the work that God has put before us. In doing so, we continue to lay the groundwork for greater growth in spiritual depth, unity, witness, and numbers. Here is a brief overview of some of the efforts underway.

We are becoming more and more active in being a visible presence in our communities. So far this year we have had 21 different events where either monthly meetings hosted events designed to welcome the public into their worship space, or monthly or regional meetings made our presence known

at community festivals, peace fairs, and the like. The Advancement Committee has also been encouraging every monthly meeting to have a Web site, and Paul Busby has been helping meetings to create or update sites. And as a result of the Advancement consultation last March, there is more coordination at quarterly/regional/half-yearly levels by Friends who carry a concern for advancement and outreach.

We are better supporting and nurturing our youth. There are a burgeoning number of youth groups throughout the Yearly Meeting. We are getting more intentional about nurturing our youth, being particularly aware of the stage when they enter young adulthood, when they are too old for the Powell House youth program and JYM and not yet feeling a part of the wider community. The Task Group on Youth is working to heighten awareness of our need

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# Thank you Bronwyn!

for your many years of service  
as the newsletter editor.

Newsletter submissions should now be submitted to the new editor, Rini Clarkberg, at [mec30@cornell.edu](mailto:mec30@cornell.edu), 150 Giles St. Ithaca NY 14850, or 277-9364. To be included in the February newsletter, materials should be received by January 21.

# Announcements

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## Do you have something for the February newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the February newsletter to Rini Clarkberg by the method of your choice, no later than Monday, January 21. (277-9364 / [mec30@cornell.edu](mailto:mec30@cornell.edu) / 150 Giles Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 or after meeting for worship on January 20)

## Faith and Practice Adult Discussion Group / Sunday, January 6

Program Committee will be offering readings and discussion from NYYM Faith and Practice. The sessions will be on the first First Day of each month from 9:30 am to 10:45 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314 (third floor meeting room). Bring your own copy of Faith and Practice or there are copies available for purchase in the Edwards Room and at the Burt House (books bearing a price tag are for sale; books bearing a lender's pocket inside the cover are intended for borrowing). You can also find copies of Faith and Practice online at: <http://www.nyyym.org/quakerism/fnp/>

This month is the second topic in this series, and will be "Seeking the Spirit In Scripture, In Devotional Reading, in Tradition" on Sunday January 6. The third topic will be "Seeking the Spirit in Gospel Order, in Corporate Worship, in Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business" at 9:30 am in Anabel Taylor Hall Room 314. Please read ahead if you can.

## Social Justice Committee Meeting / Sunday, January 6

The Social Justice Committee will meet at the rise of Meeting for Worship on Sunday, January 6. All Friends are welcomed to attend.

## Follow up to "The Lost Message of George Fox" / Sunday, January 6

An organizational meeting is scheduled after the rise of Meeting for worship on Sunday, January 6. If you are interested and missed that meeting, please call Tony at 273-2191 and leave a message on his voice mail.

Tony writes:

"A good deal of interest was expressed after my Quaker Basics class in late October. Although at first I had thought of doing further classes on the subject, I've scaled down. My thought now is to have a worship-sharing meeting or meetings with anyone interested in the subject. I have a couple of handouts to read; we could then go around and share about anything that attracted your attention or interest."

"The term 'Lost Message of George Fox' was termed by Lewis Benson, based on the fact that no one ever recorded Fox's famous sermon at Firbank Fell, which resulted in 1,000 people becoming Quakers on the spot, and launching the Quaker movement. Among other things, Fox taught a path of personal transformation based on following the leadings of what he alternatively called the 'Inward Light' and the Indwelling Christ, or Spirit of Christ. It was only after an intense period of inner transformation that early Quakers considered themselves 'Children of the Light.'"

## Peace Witness Committee Meeting / Tuesday, January 8

The Peace Witness Committee will be meeting at the Burt House at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 8th. Please join us as we continue our efforts to express Friends' Peace Testimony. Bring your thoughts and ideas.

## Notice of Annual Meeting / Sunday, January 13, 2008

Trustees announce that the annual meeting of IMMRSF Inc. will be held after the rise of Meeting for worship on Sunday, January 13, 2008 in the Café of Anabel Taylor Hall. The corporate portion of the meeting requires members and attenders to sign in, so please plan to attend at least this part of the meeting. The corporate portion will be followed by reports of all Meeting activities for the past year. It is moving to reflect on just how much our Friends do. See you there!

## Second Sunday Celebration Circle: Simplicity as a Spiritual Practice / Sunday, January 13th

"Simplicity as a Spiritual Practice" is the theme of this month's Second Sunday Celebration Circle, led by Jody Kessler on Sunday, January 13. In the last couple of decades, we've been hearing more and more discussion about simplicity, about the need to simplify our lives for personal, economic and environmental reasons. Ironically, the process of simplifying our lives is not simple - there are many difficult choices to be made, and what may bring simplicity on one level of our lives may actually make another area more complicated. How do we navigate through the complex territory of simplicity, and how can we make living simply a spiritual practice? Through song, reflection, meditation and sharing, we will explore wisdom from many faiths and visionaries on this theme.

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 607-227-5683 or visit [www.com-monheart.org](http://www.com-monheart.org)

## Quaker Writers / Thursday, January 17

Quaker Writers is a small group that gathers once a month to write together and then to read aloud what we have written. Members take turns suggesting topics, of course those suggestions need not be followed if something else comes to mind.

This month's gathering will be at Dick and Melody's house on Thursday, January 17, from 7:00-9:00 pm. (112 Mount Pleasant)

We encourage people to come when they can, and are always welcoming new members. Come and give it a try, you might find it suits you.

## Quaker Basics News from the Program Committee / Sunday, January 20

It's a new year and time for more Quaker Basics sessions! Quaker Basics is our adult education program designed to help

F/friends understand a little more about Quakerism and Ithaca Monthly Meeting. All F/friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you require childcare, please let a member of Program Committee know by the Wednesday before the session.

The next session will be Sunday January 20, 2008 after the rise of Meeting (around 12:45 pm) until 2:45 pm. Ellie Rosenberg and Sue Ruff will lead a discussion on "Meeting for Worship". Future topics and dates are:

February 24: Meeting for Business

March 23: The Quaker Life Cycle

April 27: Wider Quaker Organizations

## Meeting for Healing / Tuesday, January 22

### ITHACA

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,  
pray that the road is long,

full of adventure, full of knowledge.

The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,  
the angry Poseidon—do not fear them:

You will never find such as these on your path

if your thoughts remain lofty, if a fine  
emotion touches your spirit and your body.

The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,  
the fierce Poseidon you will never encounter,  
if you do not carry them within your soul,  
if your heart does not set them up before you.

Pray that the road is long.

That the summer mornings are many, when,  
with such pleasure, with such joy  
you will enter ports seen for the first time;

stop at Phoenician markets,  
and purchase fine merchandise,  
mother-of-pearl and coral, amber and ebony,  
and sensual perfumes of all kinds,  
as many sensual perfumes as you can;  
visit many Egyptian cities,  
to learn and learn from scholars.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind.

To arrive there is your ultimate goal,

But do not hurry the voyage at all.

It is better to let it last for many years;  
and to anchor at the island when you are old,  
rich with all you have gained on the way,  
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.

Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.

Without her you would never have set out on the road.

She has nothing more to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you.

Wise as you have become, with so much experience,  
you must already have understood what Ithacas mean.

—by *Constantin Cavfy (1863-1933)*  
*translated by Rae Dalven*

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 January 22. 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.

## Brunch and Theatrical Production by the Lasers / Sunday, January 27

The Lasers First Day School class will present a production about kids traveling back to the time of John Woolman. This will take place on Sunday, January 27, once everyone has had a chance to help themselves to brunch.

## Child Care Fund

The Budget Committee reminds Friends with children that Ithaca Meeting provides money for baby sitting in your home to help you attend Meeting activities such as Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Quaker Basics, Midweek Meeting etc. Contact the treasurer, Steve Mohlke, regarding requests (277-4183 / smohlke@lightlink.com)

## Reminder from the Financial Planning Committee

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

## Calling all nametags!

If you have your Meeting nametag at home, it would be great if you would bring it back to Meeting. This is a great way for all of us to get to know Friends' names, and reusing the ones we already have is better than using hospitality funds to create new ones.

## Syracuse Peace Council meeting with WSYR, Syracuse radio station / Wednesday, January 9

Barry Kahn shares the following with us:

The Syracuse Peace Council is sponsoring a meeting to set up a meeting with WSYR, the station that has programs that advocates torture, to discuss equal air time. This preliminary meeting will be on January 9, Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m. at their office at 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse. Clearchannels CEO Joel Delmonico has said he would meet. This began when I demonstrated by myself at a WSYR station sponsored Christmas party benefit for the McMahon-Ryon Child Advocacy Site and was told by the Syracuse Police that I threatened Jim Reith the announcer.

\*Syracuse Peace Council

924 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 472-5478

\*spc@peacecouncil.net <mailto:spc@peacecouncil.net>

Directions/map <http://www.peacecouncil.net/SPCdirections.htm>

[Editor's note: You may want to check out the Website for

Syracuse Peace Council, [www.peacecouncil.net](http://www.peacecouncil.net). In addition to information on upcoming peace related events, there is a constantly updated tally of the cost of the war in Iraq. It is very sobering, and brings that figure to life in a way that doesn't happen when we hear an individual amount.]

## The Ithaca Community Chorus & Chamber Singers Concert / Saturday, January 12

The Ithaca Community Chorus & Chamber Singers Concert will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 8:00 pm at St. Paul's Methodist Church. Look for Connie Thomas, Annie Wexler and Melody Johnson in the alto section and Tony Gaenslen in the bass section. Expect to hear Handel Four Coronation Anthems, Haydn Nelson Mass, and Selections from Dove, Lauridson and Tavener.

Tickets \$12 in advance \$15 at door \$6 Children, available from members, Ludgates and at the door. This should be a great concert, very powerful music, over 100 voices, topnotch soloists and orchestra.

## Stop Junk Mail

In Style magazine has a "Green Scene" section and the latest tip is to go online to Green Dimes, <http://www.greendimes.com/>. For a small price they do all the work getting your name off junk mail lists. The GreenDimes Impact Counter notes that at this moment, they have stopped over 2.5 million pounds of junk mail, planted/saved over 370,000 trees, and saved over 7.2 million gallons of water! The site says: Why Join?

- \* Your name is typically worth 3 to 20 cents each time it is sold.
- \* 100 million trees are ground up each year for unsolicited mail.
- \* It wastes 28 billion gallons of water for paper processing each year.
- \* That's 4.5 million tons of junk mail produced each year!
- \* 320 million of local taxes are used to dispose of unsolicited mail each year.
- \* The average person gets only 1.5 personal letters each week, compared to 10.8 pieces of junk mail.
- \* 44% of all junk mail is thrown in the trash, unopened and unread.

How it Works:

### Step 1: Sign Up

As soon as you join, our team does all the work to get your name off dozens of direct marketer's mailing lists. This will take care of a big chunk of the junk!

### Step 2: Hate Your Catalogs? Love Your Catalogs?

Just let us know! Log in anytime to your GreenDimes account and click on our easy-to-use Catalog Screener to enter the catalogs and other mailings that you want stopped.

### Step 3: You Register. We Monitor.

Each month GreenDimes monitors the Direct Marketing Association's mailing list to ensure that your name gets off and stays off their mailing lists. In order for us to do this, you will need to register your name with the DMA. They charge \$1 per name, but registering will make a big difference in the amount of junk in your mailbox.

## Informational Meetings re Foster and Adoptive Parents / Second Thursdays

Friends, the following came to us because of our connection with ACT, Area Congregations Together:

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent and wants more information, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St., Ithaca, NY on the second Thursday of each month from Noon to 1PM. The scheduled dates for the upcoming meetings are: January 10, February 14 & March 13, 2008. Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District and for families who will foster teenagers.

Please call 274-5266 for more information.

## Powell House

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.

Interested in carpooling? Call Melanie-Claire Mallison or Bronwyn Mohlke, and we'll let you know if we know of other Ithaca Friends who are going to the conference that you are interested in.

Upcoming weekends include: (in order to conserve space, I have only included the titles. Full descriptions will be found on the Powell House Website, or ask Melanie-Claire Mallison for details):

Silent Retreat Dwelling Deep: An Extended Meeting For Worship

Linda Chidsey 1/18/2008-1/21/2008

Pastoral Care with Mickey Edgerton & Dortha Meredith  
2/1/2008-2/3/2008

Quilting From The Center / Led by Kathie Greenwold, Anne Pomeroy and Anita Paul 2/8/2008-2/10/2008

Dealing In Love With Difficult People ... in Our Meetings and Beyond

Sponsored by the Conflict Transformation Committee  
2/15/2008-2/17/2008

Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy & Confidence  
Arthur Larrabee 2/22/2008-2/24/2008

AVP Basic Conflict Resolution Workshop: Level 1 2/22/2008-2/24/2008

Earth In The Headlines: How Are We Called to Respond?  
Marshall Massey 3/14/2008-3/16/2008

Work/Messiah Sing & Celebration 3/21/2008-3/23/2008

Holy Resistance Sacred Surrender

With Mary Kay Glazer 3/28/2008-3/30/2008

Gems - A Women's Intergenerational Gathering 8th Grade to Adult 4/25/2008-4/27/2008

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Girls, Boys And Everything In Between (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades) 1/25/2008-1/27/2008

Grooves That Move You (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grades) 2/1/2008-2/3/2008

Mask-Arading (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) 2/8/2008-2/10/2008

Serious Seuss (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades) 2/29/2008-3/2/2008

Jesus At The Movies (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades) 3/16/2008-3/18/2008

Far Out Foods and Fair Trade (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grades) 3/28/2008-3/30/2008

Friends: Making Them, Keeping Them and Letting Them Go... (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) 4/11/2008-4/13/2008

Springing Out Of The Silence (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades) 4/18/2008-4/20/2008

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## Minutes of the December 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*

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

### 200712.1 Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) met on December 9, 2007, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, in the Café Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University campus. At 12:50 p.m., sixteen F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Book of Discipline, 1927, on sincerity (pg.30). The November minutes were read. @

### 200712.2 Ministry & Oversight

Rini Clarkberg reported on two items; the first a memorial minute for Louis Edgerton, which she read. With one possible addition in Louis' surviving family, the minute is approved. Second, the committee has received NYYM's request for a State of the Meeting report. The request asks that we consider the following query "How do we sense the Spirit moving among us?" @

### 200712.3 Route 79 Property Committee

Rini updated us on recent developments on the property since the committee began to move forward on the approved minute from November (200711.2) asking for a road to be constructed. This addition to the property, coupled with the recreational use of the land, requires that a Site Plan be submitted to the Town of Ithaca Planning Board. This Site Plan will include, for instance, the layout of the Quaker camp and the suggested road. Friends offered their physical support in bringing the Site Plan to the Board. @

### 200712.4 Ad Hoc Committee on Iraqi Immigrants

Garry Thomas reported on updates of this joint committee. They have met with the family of Dhia Abed Waheed, at their

home. Friends are meeting with the family for informal "English as Second Language" lessons, taking family members shopping and collecting financial donations. The ad hoc committee has contacted other organizations also working in immigrant issues, helping to create a larger support network. This Iraqi family experiences a very real isolation as they contend with cultural differences in a new country. The ad hoc committee has a list of needs, and we are all encouraged to take a look and help in any way possible. Garry brought a request that donations be collected every third First Day, specifically for immigrant families. The IMM approves this designation for the third First Day of each month, with a review in six months. Checks can be made out to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, designated for "Refuge Funds." The ad hoc committee members are Mac Larsen, Margaret McCasland, Elizabeth Schneider, Garry Thomas, and Bonnie Tyler. @

### 200712.5 Peace Witness Committee

Mac Larsen reported on proposed donations for the remaining \$500 in the Peace Witness funds requiring Meeting approval; \$50 to the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, \$150 to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, \$100 to Friends Peace Teams, \$100 to the Nonviolent Peaceforce, and \$100 to Conscious Alternatives to Militarism. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting approved these donations. Please note the report from Peace Witness includes addresses for most of these organizations to encourage individual contributions. @

### 200712.6 Nominating Committee

Marion DaGrossa reported on the proposed committee assignments for 2008. Ithaca Monthly Meeting approved the assignments as written. Friends expressed their gratitude to both the Nominating Committee and those nominated. @

### 200712.7 Budget Committee and Treasurer's Reports

Steve Mohlke reported on both the Budget Committee's proposed budget for 2008, and the Treasurer's Report for November 2007. He started by clarifying the definitions of a budget line and a fund. A budget line starts each new year with the intended money that has been approved by the Meeting. If, at the end of the year, the budget line has not be fully spent, there is no 'left over' for the next year. A fund rolls over each year, with the approved money deposited into the fund each year. Even if the fund is not used over the course of the year, the money remains there in the fund, building the fund for its designated purpose. Steve noted the main changes included in the 2008 proposed budget as outlined last month also (200711.6). Ithaca Monthly Meeting approved the 2008 Proposed Budget. Steve summarized the 2007 November income and expenses report. He noted that the money for the Coordinating Team Allocation will be rolled back into the New Building Fund, from whence it came. @

The next meeting for business will include our Annual Meeting of the corporation, and will be held on January 13th, 2008.

At 2:30 PM, eighteen F/friends gathered into worship before adjourning.

—*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.)

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## Directory Update

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Friends,

The directory committee is coming out with a full update to the 2007 directory, as well as a new phone list, and list of committee assignments. Here are all of the changes that we have recorded in the past year. Additions are marked with a +, all others are corrections. If you know of any that don't appear here, please send them to Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke, 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 277-4183 / [bjm9@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm9@cornell.edu)

Please note: the only change that is listed here that hasn't been in a previous newsletter is the news that the Finlay family has moved! Fortunately, it's only a local move. See below.

—*Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke*

Brainard/Popenoe Family: Julie Popenoe, Dan Brainard, Sarah and Silas Brainard, 651 Hillcrest Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823 / (517) 337-8537

Camp Family (James, Elie, Ryan, and Shay) 120 River Bend Dr., Apt 827, Georgetown, TX 78628 / (512) 818-9884 / [eliejean@mac.com](mailto:eliejean@mac.com) / [jamescamp@mac.com](mailto:jamescamp@mac.com).

Everhart, Corinne: 175 Penns-Grove Auburn Road Apt. # 1209 Carneys Point NJ 08069 / (856) 299-4159

DaGrossa, Marion has a new address: [mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com)

Finlay Family (Jim, Marcy, PJ and Devon) 277 Enfield Main Road, Ithaca New York. Their phone number is still 277-4441

+ Gallant, Jason / 130 East Spencer Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (860) 933-4366 / [jrg63@cornell.edu](mailto:jrg63@cornell.edu)

Gardescu, Sarah / 20 Lenox Ave, Albany NY 12203 / 518-641-2060 mobile

+ Lisa Goodlin and her son Miguel Goodlin-Saenz (born 5/11/92) / 201 Milnor Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13224 / home phone (315) 446-3068 / cell phone (315) 450-4337 / Lisa's address is [mail2@lisagoodlin.com](mailto:mail2@lisagoodlin.com), and Miguel's is [pallidsoulfire@yahoo.com](mailto:pallidsoulfire@yahoo.com)

Grove, Lynn has a new address [l\\_grove\\_87@hotmail.com](mailto:l_grove_87@hotmail.com)

+ Hutchinson Family: Cheryl, Matt, Corinne (9/29/94) and Claire (1/19/98) / 206 Edgemont Drive, Syracuse, NY 13214 / (315) 446-5327

Kelly-Philpot, Jan: phone number is 256-0256/ she doesn't use her e-mail

Keokosky, Betsy has a new phone number: 277-1284

Lewis/Raymer Family: John Lewis and Annalisa Raymer, 4242 Chess Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508 / (907) 338-1968

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

McCasland, Margaret: 511 First Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / home: 272-2544 / cell: 351-1892

+ Metro, Rose / 601 North Cayuga Street #2, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 607 342-8241 / [rm492@cornell.edu](mailto:rm492@cornell.edu)

Pineo, Caroline / 357 Fenner Rd, Lansing 14882, 351-6168

Popenoe, Julie – see Brainard/Popenoe family

Raymer, Annalisa – see Lewis/Raymer Family

Rhoads, Jamie: phone number (919) 619-3883 (his address is correct in the directory)

Ruff, Sue / 6 Kolb Road, Binghamton, NY 13905 / her phone & e-mail address remain unchanged: [applepieand@hotmail.com](mailto:applepieand@hotmail.com) / 724-2111

+ Russell, Jim / 13 Bush Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 257-7456 / [jbr8@cornell.edu](mailto:jbr8@cornell.edu)

Sewell, Pat – see Varrichio/Sewell Family

+ Summers, Holly / 121 Sears Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (818) 256-7520 / [hes36@cornell.edu](mailto:hes36@cornell.edu)

Varrichio/Sewell Family: Gina Varrichio, Pat Sewell, and Drew Varrichio (2/9/04) 166 Crescent Place, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 272-2512 / [Zealth\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:Zealth_1@yahoo.com) (that's a one after Zealth\_)

Yesukevich, Alexa / 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850 / [apy3@cornell.edu](mailto:apy3@cornell.edu) / 273-5421 or cell number (703) 297-9848

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## Growing in Spirit continued from page 1

to nurture our children and youth, and their work is having a significant impact. Our theme for next summer's Annual Session, "Spiritual Community: Becoming One Across the Spectrum of Age," addresses our need to better integrate Friends of all ages into the fabric of our community. The Advancement Committee is also hosting a multigenerational retreat immediately before Summer Sessions entitled "Becoming One Body" where we hope that Friends from a variety of generations will share their spiritual experience with each other. And, to better support the adults who are nurturing this increasing amount of youth work, I have initiated, in consultation with some Friends devoted to this work, a Friendly Adult Presence training at Farmington-Scipio's Spring Gathering, facilitated by Mike Clark and available to Friends from across the Yearly Meeting.

We are attending to better ways of supporting and integrating adult young Friends. We had over 70 adult young Friends at this past Summer Session. They initiated a powerful session of worship sharing about their role in our community. Adult young Friends are also hosting a retreat at Brooklyn MM this fall, and have revived their newsletter. As staff we have given some logistical support with database management and support of Friends in leadership roles, but most all of the energy behind the renewal in this generation has come from these younger Friends. Helen Garay Toppins has been exploring how internships devoted to nurturing these Friends might better inform us how to structure more long-term support. Friends can give to a specific fund that will be used to create this internship. In addition to all this, Advancement committee is exploring ways to do campus outreach to college students who have a history with Friends or who may be Friends but don't know it yet.

We are at work in proactively addressing the spiritual needs of Friends—all the way along the continuum from new attenders to seasoned Friends. Six of our quarterly/regional/half-yearly meetings are engaged in this on some level, whether that be supporting intervisitation, organizing retreats to provide a spiritual boost and promote community, sharing adult religious education resources, or having region-wide extended worship opportunities. The Spiritual Nurture Committee continues to meet in discernment as to what efforts at a Yearly Meeting level might best support the spiritual nurture of individual Friends. The last of the Drawing Out Gifts series of workshops will be held at Powell House later this month. It will be a retreat for those who have attended earlier retreats, hearing about how the Truth is prospering in those Friends. The Spiritual Nurture Committee is eager to hear from the experience of these Friends, perhaps gaining insights as to what might be most helpful in supporting Friends in the development of their gifts in the Spirit.

We are changing our structures to encourage more grassroots discernment in our life as a Yearly Meeting. This March we will have the first of our Meetings for Discernment, opportunities for Yearly Meeting-wide collective listening in the Spirit. I am optimistic about the impact these meetings will have on our community as a whole. Our clerk is also initiating changes in our practice of

worship with attention to business to better ground our business in worshipful discernment.

We are supporting a multitude of different expressions of our witness in the world—giving tangible expression to our spiritual life. From our witness around care of the earth, to our prison ministry, to our work in conscientious objection to military taxation, to our witness against torture, to work in Indonesia, Colombia, Bolivia, and Kenya, to my representing us at the meeting with Iranian President Ahmadinejad, the list of our witness is impressive and inspiring. We are indeed making our faith visible and tangible. Our spirituality nurtures and inspires our witness, which nurtures and inspires our life in the Spirit. And in being faithful to this ministry, we are strengthened in our life together.

We are seeing more and more Friends led to travel in the Ministry. Some Friends have already asked for and received travel minutes, and others are at various stages in this process. These Friends are feeling called to travel under a wide range of concerns. It is exciting to see the number and diversity of these leadings.

We are witnessing greater participation in the work going on at a Yearly Meeting level. There are many Friends now serving on Yearly Meeting committees and task groups who are new to Yearly Meeting service. And we had 126 first-time attenders at Summer Sessions, some of whom asked how they could be of service.

Obviously, there is much that we are tending very well, and this work is already bearing good fruit as we are faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. I have already heard Friends talking about a new vitality in the Yearly Meeting, and from all that I am witnessing, this is quite true. And we have much work in front of us. In addition to tending to the above work already underway, some of the more pressing aspects of this work are:

- befriending, not just welcoming, newcomers to our meetings
- discerning a clearer vision of what we are called to be and do as a unified people
- communicating the work that is going on at a Yearly Meeting level to the body of the Yearly Meeting
- coming to terms with our own diversity, and discerning how we are led to be in relationship with the rest of FUM
- encouraging participation in the Meetings for Discernment
- seeing more clearly where intrapersonal and interpersonal conflict are intruding upon our discernment

—*Christopher Sammond, NYYM General Secretary*

# Calendar for January 2008

## 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

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**Jan 2 Wed 1:15 – 3pm** Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

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

**Jan 6 Sun 9:30 am** “Seeking the Spirit In Scripture, In Devotional Reading, in Tradition” / the second in the “Faith and Practice Adult Discussion Group” series / Anabel Taylor, Room 314 \*\*\*

**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 Janis Kelly (277-1024).

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

**Rise of Mtg** Organizational meeting re a follow up series to “The Lost Message of George Fox” by Tony Gaenslen \*\*\*

**Jan 8 Tues 7:30 pm** Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

**Jan 13 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 January 6

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

**12:30 pm** Annual 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** Jody Kessler “Simplicity as a Spiritual Practice” is the theme of this month’s Second Sunday Celebration Circle, led by Jody Kessler \*\*\*

**Jan 17 Thurs 7:00-9:00 pm** Quaker Writers’ Group \*\*\*

**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.

**Jan 20 Sun 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 January 6

**Rise of Mtg** Quaker Basics: Ellie Rosenberg and Sue Ruff will lead a discussion on “Meeting for Worship” \*\*\*

**Jan 21 Mon** *February newsletter due date.* Please contact Rini Clarkberg if you have anything to be included in the February newsletter (see contact information listed below).

**Jan 22 Tues 7:15 pm** Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road \*\*\*

**Jan 27 Sun 10:30 am** Singing in the Edwards Room

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

**11:15 am** Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) – see note on January 6

**Rise of Mtg** Light brunch. Please bring finger foods to share. Laser First Day School Class theatrical production! \*\*\*

**Jan 29 Tues 7:00 pm** Threshold Choir at Melody and Dick’s home

**Feb 3 Sun 9:30 am** “Seeking the Spirit in Gospel Order, in Corporate Worship, in Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business” / the third in the “Faith and Practice Adult Discussion Group” series / Anabel Taylor, Room 314 \*\*\*

\*\*\* = 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 7. Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of misery and suffering. They are urged to support efforts to overcome racial, social, economic, and educational discrimination; to bear testimony against all forms of oppression; to exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives; and to work for the abolition of the death penalty.*

*Query 7. Do our vocations provide constructive and beneficial service? Do we observe integrity in our business transactions? Do we avoid involving ourselves beyond our ability to manage? Are we careful to conduct our affairs punctually, justly, and honorably? Do we avoid participation in lotteries, betting, and gambling?*