



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

December 2008

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Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Due December 31st

Materials for January's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:
Rini Clarkberg
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
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Refugee Families in Ithaca

— Bonnie Tyler and Garry Thomas

In November 2007, Ithaca Monthly Meeting established the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support, under the joint auspices of the Meeting's Social Justice and Peace Witness Committees. In doing this, the Meeting was agreeing to furnish financial, logistical and emotional support, in particular, to an Iraqi translator family, recently settled in Ithaca, and to local Burmese refugees also known to be needing assistance. A few weeks ago, the two of us presented a report to the November Business Meeting, at which time it was agreed that the Third First Day Collection for the Refugee Fund should continue for another six months. We feel that readers of the Newsletter should know more about how the two families the Meeting is supporting are faring, and how the Working Group is attempting to support their needs.

MuMu and Eh Christ

The local Burmese family the Meeting is helping is that of MuMu and Eh Christ, known to many because they lived in Burt House during the first year they lived in Ithaca. During that year, they learned some English, MuMu gave birth to their first child, and Eh Christ obtained a full-time job at Ithaca College. After years of experiencing extreme danger in Burma and the hardship of a refugee camp in Thailand, for the first time their future looked good. They felt confident enough in their new culture to move into a downtown apartment, where they had a second child.

Last January, when their second child was six months old, MuMu started a food service job at Cornell University. Two weeks later, when leaving work she slipped on ice outside the kitchen door and was knocked unconscious. Cayuga Medical Center sent her to University Hospital in Syracuse where she spent a number of days. Since being discharged from the hospital she has been under the continual care of their Concussion Clinic. Her physical problems – headaches, dizziness and nausea – continue and actually seem to be getting worse. Even when the pain subsides somewhat and the old playful MuMu shines through, her memory is often poor. The slightest stress, such as caring for an active fifteen month old girl and three year old boy, precipitates an excruciating headache, twice this month leading to hospitalization.

Cornell has assumed responsibility for MuMu's fall and she is getting some medical care and financial help through Workman's Compensation. However Workman's Compensation does not pay for help with the children, cooking or other household chores. Moreover, the very small payment MuMu receives affects her subsidies from DSS but does not begin to pay for the family's increased needs due to MuMu's physical problems. Almost no one comes to visit. The doctors in Syracuse have told her she will get better sometime but it will not be soon. Eh Christ continues to work the late shift, worries that his wife is so ill, and fears that time taken off to help MuMu might affect his job security. The children are at home and have no sense of a structured life, of sitting close to an adult looking at a book or drawing with a crayon. Life no longer seems good.

"Families" continued on page 2

Dhia Abed Waheed and Aseel Naser Waheed

As an Iraqi with a university degree in English, it was rather natural for Dhia Abed Waheed to become a translator for the US Army. As if that wasn't dangerous enough, because he was seen as a collaborator, his extended family was soon targeted by assassins. He, his young wife Aseel, and two young children fled Iraq, going first to Jordan, then Syria, and finally were brought to Ithaca in September 2007 by Maura Stephens and George Sapio, a local activist couple long involved in humanitarian and anti-war efforts.

Now, more than a year later, the Waheed family is settled into a Fall Creek apartment, Dhia has a semester-to-semester appointment as a Teaching Associate at Cornell teaching Arabic, they receive some public assistance, Aseel is learning English, three-year old Aboody is attending Head Start—"my school," he calls it—and he's learned to sing about "The Wheels on the Bus," and two-year old Fatima happily clings to her mom. But this does not mean that life is easy. There's no job security, they (like the Burmese family) go on and off Food Stamps or Section 8 as their incomes change, and as refugees from Iraq, their adjustment to life here in the US has been very difficult emotionally. They both feel the cultural isolation and physical distance from their families and their country, and make calls home almost every day; particularly Aseel must deal with constant aloneness and loneliness; this post-trauma existence takes its daily toll on this family, emotionally, physically, and medically.

In a guest column in the Ithaca Journal (September 29, 2008), written one year after the Waheed family and a second translator family arrived, Maura Stephens wrote a public thank you to the

Ithaca community: "It has been inspirational and affirming for me to get to know so many wonderful Ithacans, especially the Friends and Unitarians, who now have a steady presence in [the Iraqi families' lives]. They can't know how much it means to the families, especially, I think, the young mothers, who came here alone and afraid, with little English, torn from their close-knit communities at home and families."

Well, we do know some of what it means. Members of the Ad Hoc Working Group have gone shopping and to food pantries with them, we found them a washing machine, we've negotiated the social services bureaucracies and filled in applications and tax forms, helped with home repairs, three members of Meeting drive their three year old to Head Start four days a week, and another teaches ESL to Aseel two mornings a week. (As dear Margaret Mead might say, were she still with us, the Meeting should never doubt what a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can do to help the poorest amongst us prevail in the most painful and difficult of times.) But none of it has been enough.

The Continuing Need

The Meeting has raised approximately \$5,000 for the Refugee Fund in the past year. What remains of this money, as well as additional money collected on Third First Days, will be spent to help both families meet their various and different needs, for example, paying baby sitters and medical co-pays for MuMu or paying internet charges and phone bills for the Waheed family.

The Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support also is in frequent need of help. In addition to the two of us, one can contact Margaret McCasland and Mac Larsen if interested.

IMM's Budget

The Finance Committee is responsible for drafting a budget for the coming year for approval by the Monthly Meeting. The committee receives suggestions on the nature and amount of budget items from the Clerk, committees and members of the Meeting.

At the November business meeting, the Finance Committee presented a proposed 2009 budget for discussion. This budget with possible changes will be brought up at the December 7, 2008 business meeting for approval. We thought it important that Friends should have access to the proposed budget prior to that business meeting.

For your consideration, the budget as presented in November appears below (income) and on page 3 (expenses). Comments may be made to Steve Mohlke, Mike Simkin, Chuck Mohler, Dick Crepeau or Will White.

	2007 Actual	2008 Budget Approved	2009 Proposed	YTD 1/1/08 - 10/31/08	Period 10/1/08 - 10/31/08	Budget change
Income						
62 Donations	38,866	48,630	48,780	18,677	2,670	150
63 Interest (Checking & Savings)	213	200	200	214	10	-
64 Property						-
65 Burrth House (BH)						-
66 Contributions (Organizations)	325	-	-	-	-	-
67 Management Agreement	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,100	410	-
68 Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
69 Rental	12,326	11,660	12,900	10,783	2,933	1,240
70 Sojourner	835	600	725	605	275	125
71 Total Burrth House	18,406	17,180	18,545	15,488	3,618	-
72 Hector Meeting House	-	-	-	-	-	-
73 Rt. 79 Property	-	-	-	-	-	-
74 Labor contributions for budgeted expenses	950	700	1,000	-	-	300
75 Total Property-Related Income	19,356	17,880	19,545	15,488	3,618	-
76 Transfer from General Fund Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
77 TOTAL INCOME	58,435	66,710	68,525	34,379	6,299	-

IMM's Budget, cont.

		2007	2008	2009	YTD 1/1/08	Period	Budget
Expense		Actual	Budget Approved	Proposed	- 10/31/08	10/1/08 - 10/31/08	change
78	Wider Quaker Bodies						-
79	Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting	2,000	2,000	660	660	132	(1,340)
80	New York Yearly Meeting	13,000	13,500	14,000	13,500	2,700	500
81	Friends General Conference	200	200	200	200	-	-
82	Total Friends Membership Organizations	15,200	15,700	14,860	14,360	2,832	-
83	Witness						-
84	Advocacy Center - Tompkins County	250	250	250	250	-	-
85	American Friends Service Committee	750	750	750	750	-	-
86	American Friends Service Committee - Syracuse office	-	250	250	250	-	-
87	American Friends Service Committee - Crisis Fund	-	200	200	200	-	-
88	Center for Conscience & War (NISBCO)	300	300	300	300	-	-
89	Central Com. Conscientious Objn.	100	100	100	100	-	-
90	Community Dispute Resolution Center	275	275	275	275	-	-
91	Fellowship of Reconciliation	150	150	150	150	-	-
92	Friends Committee on National Legislation	750	750	750	750	-	-
93	Friends Peace Teams	200	300	300	300	-	-
94	Friendship Center	200	100	100	100	-	-
95	Kitchen Cupboard	-	250	250	250	-	-
96	OAR (Opportunities, Advocacy and Resources)	250	250	250	250	-	-
97	Peace Witness Committee (Discretionary)	500	500	500	144	-	-
98	Peace Witness Committee (Meeting Approval)	500	500	500	-	-	-
99	Quaker House in Fayetteville NC	300	300	300	300	-	-
100	Quaker UN Office	200	200	200	-	-	-
101	Ramallah Peace Center (formerly Meetinghouse)	150	150	150	-	-	-
102	Social Justice Committee (Discretionary)	500	500	500	50	-	-
103	Social Justice Committee (Meeting Approval)	500	500	500	-	-	-
104	Southside Community Center - Afterschool Program	200	200	200	-	-	-
105	Worker's Rights Center	-	250	250	-	-	-
106	Total Witness	7,150	7,025	7,025	4,419	-	-
107	Nurture						-
108	Child Care	1,452	2,000	800	375	-	(1,200)
109	Faith and Practice	50	50	50	50	-	-
110	First Day School: Program	529	800	800	616	587	-
111	Gail Donnen White Nurture Scholarships	500	500	1,000	500	-	500
112	Hospitality	89	100	100	-	-	-
113	Library	246	250	250	94	94	-
114	Ministry and Oversight	-	100	100	18	18	-
115	Powell House	300	300	350	300	-	50
116	Program Committee	341	350	350	15	5	-
117	Young Friends	-	350	350	138	138	-
118	Total Nurture	3,507	4,800	4,150	2,105	842	-
119	Administration & Property						-
120	Administrative Costs	74	100	500	411	2	400
121	Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
122	Peace Witness Committee	101	100	100	18	-	-
123	Postage & Printing	1,233	1,300	1,300	889	36	-
124	Property Expenses						-
125	Anabel Taylor Hall	350	400	500	504	-	100
126	Burt House						-
127	Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
128	Insurance	854	860	1,020	1,018	(102)	160
129	Major Repair Fund (0.75% of building value)	1,500	3,675	4,200	3,063	306	525
130	Major Repair	-	-	-	-	-	-
131	Management Agreement	4,920	4,920	4,920	4,100	410	-
132	Operations & Maintenance	3,977	3,000	3,300	1,762	321	300
133	Supplemental Services	1,330	2,160	2,300	1,800	360	140
134	Utilities and Heat	6,401	8,000	8,500	5,951	689	500
135	Total Burt House	18,983	22,615	24,240	17,694	1,984	-
136	Hector Meeting House						-
137	Insurance	188	190	190	190	(40)	-
138	Operations & Maintenance	607	500	100	358	80	(400)
139	Major Repair Fund (1% of building value)	-	600	800	500	50	200
140	Total Hector Meeting House	794	1,290	1,090	1,048	90	-
141	Route 79 Property						-
142	Grounds & utilities	810	830	1,110	110	-	280
143	Taxes	-	-	1,000	775	775	1,000
144	Total Route 79 Property	810	830	2,110	885	775	-
145	Meetinghouse Fund	-	12,000	12,000	10,000	1,000	-
146	Total Property Expense	20,937	37,135	39,940	30,131	3,849	-
147	Publicity	408	400	500	239	93	100
148	Social Justice Committee	76	150	150	31	-	-
149	Total Administration & Property	22,829	39,185	42,490	31,719	3,979	-
150	Transfer to General Fund Reserve	9,750	-	-	-	-	-
151	TOTAL EXPENSES	58,435	66,710	68,525	52,604	7,654	1,815
152	TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-	-	-	(18,224)	(1,355)	

Meeting Events

Friendly Round Singers Thursday, December 4th, 7-9p

We sing old standards and are learning many new rounds. It's a great way to work on harmonizing and singing, and a ton of fun. It's a drop in event at Melody's house, 112 Mt. Pleasant Rd, 272-8755. Come join us and bring a friend.

"Faith and Practice" Discussion Series Sunday, December 7th, 9:30-10:45a

The Faith and Practice discussion series continues each month on first Sunday. Please attend as we make our way through New York Yearly's Faith and Practice and discuss how it may or may not inform our own practice. If you can, bring your Faith and Practice book with you. If you don't have one, don't let that stop you from attending as we often read a section aloud and then discuss. We will meet at 9:30 in the 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall. See you there.

Social Justice Committee Meeting Sunday, December 7th, Rise of Meeting

Social Justice will gather in the cafe in Anabel Taylor. Please join us.

Healthy Congregations Discussion Monday, December 8, 7:15p

In the September newsletter, Steve Mohlke wrote about the book *Healthy Congregations* and the analogy between a healthy body and a healthy community. December 8th will be the *fourth* of three discussions of this book held at the Burt House. Friends are welcome to attend as we contemplate the "immune congregation" (chapter 8) and where to go from here. Contact Steve Mohlke for more information.

Social Justice presents: Fahima Vorgetts Tuesday, December 9th, 7p

Fahima Vorgetts will speak at the Unitarian Church (at the Cornell of Aurora and Buffalo) on "Village Life and Education in Afghanistan." Vorgetts has worked in Afghanistan to open new schools for girls and launch literacy classes for women. She has created income-generating projects for widows, helping them become self-sufficient, and arranged for the shipment of medical supplies to Herat's women's hospital. Many people from the community heard her speak last year and her trip this winter will update us on her work.

As part of her support of the women and children of Afghanistan, Vorgetts raises funds through sales of Afghan handcrafts. From noon to 5pm, there will be a sale of rugs, jewelry and other items. See Events in Our Community on p. 6 for further information.

To read more about Fahmia's work, visit <www.womenforafghan-women.org>.

Floating Meeting Dish-to-Pass with Carol Singing Saturday, December 13th, 6p at the Clarkberg's

Friends, please join us for a delightful dish-to-pass supper followed by carol singing. There is always lots of Friendly community present; we look forward to seeing you at the Clarkberg's (150 Giles St. 277-9364)!

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 14th, at MfW

Oh come all ye faithful (and even the not-so-faithful) to our unique presentation of the Christmas story. Pageant performers meet in the cafe around 10:45 and may bring costume elements that might suggest animals, shepherds, and/or angels.

Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, December 9th, 7:30p

Meeting at the Burt House, Peace Witness is an open committee that welcomes the participation of everyone. Our main goals are to provide a focus in our Meeting for peace witness and to encourage and support the leadings of Meeting members and attenders working for peace.

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, December 24th, 7:15p

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). If you have a concern but cannot attend, let Melody know and you will be held in the Light. For directions or more information, call Melody, 272-8755.

How Are You Led to Support Meeting?

Nominating Committee seeks a Treasurer to work with Steve Mohlke in learning and transferring responsibility starting early in 2009. Meeting members, please carefully consider whether this is a task you could do for our Meeting.

We also invite (and need) F/friends to serve on Publicity Committee and Program Committee.

Many thanks to so many who have agreed to serve, it takes many hands and hearts to do the work of our active meeting.



IMM Announcements

Christmas Gift Giving

Each year at this time, the Social Justice Committee coordinates Christmas giving to local agencies. We will continue this year and add another option: Cornell United Religious Work group has asked us to join the Elves program at Cornell which provides clothes and toys to needy children in Tompkins County and the surrounding area. So all of you wonderfully generous people will have *three* possibilities for giving. They are:

- Gift Certificates of \$25 from local stores of your choice (we suggest Wegman's, Greenstar or the Farmer's Market) to be given to folks at the Friendship Center
- Cards and money for stamps for the inmates in the Tompkins County Jail to be given to OAR
- Cash in whatever amount you can afford to be contributed to the Elves Program

Barbara Barry will coordinate the purchases with the CURW staff and if anyone wants to give an item, Barbara can give you sizes and ages for these gifts. Every contribution needs to be given to Barbara by December 14 at the time of our Christmas pageant. Sharing our own good fortune is the best reward for having that good fortune!

Committees: Annual Reports Due January 4th

It is that time of the year again...for each standing committee of IMM to begin the process of preparing its annual report. Tom Brown requests an electronic copy of each committee's 2007 annual report *no later than Friday, January 4*. (Ad hoc committees and working groups are invited to submit reports if so led.)

Library Additions

More Quaker biographies have been added to the library collection: Levi Pennington, Mary Dyer, John Woolman (two different ones), Lucretia Mott, William Penn (two different ones), and Henry Joel Cadbury.

These friendly winter reads can make cozy evenings before the fireplace. They also provide inspiration about our religious heritage as well as inspiration for our own lives today.

Check them out at the Burt House: biographies are marked with a red label "B" and are located on the top left shelf in the living room nearest the kitchen door. Each book has a charge card; sign it and leave it in the box on the shelf. Pleasant reading,

— Wilma Brown

Powell House: New York Yearly Meeting Retreat Center

For more information about registration deadlines, fees, childcare, and scholarship opportunities, please visit <www.powellhouse.org>. Remember also that IMM offers some scholarship funds; contact Steve Mohlke for more information.

Powell House Annual New Year Celebration: Cherish Family and Friends (Dec 30-Jan 1)

At this annual intergenerational event, we make snow people, ice-skate, do yoga, make cookies, share, tell stories, and build hot air balloons. Don't forget New Year's Eve "cabaret." Register early.

Wintersong 2008 (December 12-14) for 8th to 12th graders

There will be inspiring workshops, a game or two, small group discussions, simple but elegant food at the "dress-up" dinner, and the ever-entertaining cabaret. Register early.

Nontheism Among Friends (Jan 1-4)

Co-led by previous IMM member (and current Scarsdale member), Robin Alpern. How can we be nontheists and Quakers too? If our Quaker life is not centered on belief in God, what is our center? What are our challenges? How can theists and nontheists enrich each other while holding views that differ? We will explore the faith and practice of Quaker nontheists and the richness of a spiritual life not necessarily dependent on belief in God. Teens and young adult Friends are especially invited.

Dwelling Deep: An Extended Meeting for Worship (Jan 16-19)

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

Eco-Spirituality and Action: Friends as a Force of Nature (Jan 23-25)

In this era of global warming, resource depletion and increasing violence towards nature, what is the new understanding of humanity's place and role in the unfolding of creation that can help us engage creatively in this unprecedented period of crisis? What are the practices and principles of this new awareness? And what are our obligations and unique strengths as Friends to participate fully in this crucial turning point in history?

Illuminating Death and Dying (Jan 30-Feb 1)

Death and Dying needs a new language. We will explore and illuminate our understanding of end of life issues. This workshop is an opportunity to tell our story, ask questions, listen to the voices of others and celebrate in the light a renewed healing.

Events in Our Community

Benefit for Afghan Women and Children: Handmade Oriental Rugs, Shawls & Jewelry

Accompanying the presentation by Fahima Vorgetts on “Village Life and Education in Afghanistan” (see Meeting Events, p. 4), there will be a sale of handcrafts to benefit Afghan women and children. The sale will be Tuesday, December 9 from noon to 5pm on the 2nd Floor of the Unitarian Church Annex, near the corner of Buffalo and Aurora Streets.

“If we don’t finish the school, 1,200 girls won’t have a school,” said Fahima Vorgetts. “They were deprived of education for so long and still are deprived.”

Fahim’s efforts in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan have touched the lives of thousands of women of all ages and ethnicities. Vorgetts is currently a board member of Women for Afghan Women and director of the Afghan Women’s Fund. She is also an honorary member of Afghanistan Organization for Human Rights and Environmental Protection.

Her visit is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee with support from the Unitarian Church.

Words to Consider

from Meeting for Healing

I went away to Maine and walked in the country.

As I walked, I begged and pleaded with God to change things.

I was as feverish in my prayers as I had been in my career.

Then I came upon a spider web that hung between two trees.

The spider was still in the midst of spinning it.

I can’t explain why, but I stopped and watched.

It occurred to me that I’d never done anything so irrelevant in my life—or so it seemed.

I sat on a stump for the longest time, watching the spider.

And you know what? The most beautiful thing happened.

This is the way you’re supposed to pray, a voice inside me said.

Just be quiet and still so that you can begin to see the thing God is already weaving.

So that’s what I’ve started to do.

— Sue Monk Kidd

Meeting Friends



Shirley Way

Shirley Way was born into a Quaker family, but chose to leave Quakerism in her late teens. She returned as an adult, becoming a member of New York City’s Morningside Meeting in the mid-1990s.

Shirley is currently a member of Central Finger Lakes in Geneva, a meeting in the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (like IMM). Shirley lives in Poplar Ridge, and has been attending our meeting for about a year.

Shirley is active in wider Quaker bodies, serving on the Farmington-Scipio Conscience and War Committee, the New York Yearly Meeting Witness Coordinating Committee, and the New York Yearly Meeting Prisons Committee.

In addition, Shirley is employed for pay as the part time administrative coordinator for the Alternatives to Violence Project / New York.



Minutes of the November 2008
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tom Brown, Clerk
Mike Simkin, Assistant Clerk
Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk
Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

@ Indicates the reading of the minute was approved.

200811.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on November 9, 2008 in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40pm, twelve F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read Query #14 from NYYM's Faith and Practice. The minutes of the October 2008 Monthly Meeting were read. @

200811.2 Report from the ad hoc Cemetery Policy Committee. Melody Johnson requested approval of the following minute on behalf of the Committee: Elspeth Rhodin has expressed the desire to be removed from the Committee and Sue Ruff expressed the desire to join the Committee. Minute Approved. @

200811.3 Ministry & Oversight Committee. Bronwyn Mohlke presented the following schedule of upcoming special Meetings:

- A special Meeting for Worship will be held on Thanksgiving Day (11-27-08) at Hector Meetinghouse at 10:30am.
- December Monthly Meeting will be held on Dec 7, 2008
- The Holiday pageant and dinner will be held Dec 14, 2008
- A special Meeting for Worship will be held Christmas Eve at the Burtt House at 7:00pm
- A special Meeting for Worship will be held at the Burtt House New Year's Eve at 11:00pm @

200811.4 Refugee Working Group (A copy of the full report of the Working Group will be available from the Recording Clerk as soon as it is received.) Garry Thomas presented the report. He reviewed the goals and purpose of the Refugee Working Group as approved by MM in November 2007, which were to give financial and other types of support to Burmese and Iraqi immigrant families. The Working Group is under the care of the Peace Witness and Social Justice Committees. Raising financial support, in part though a collection basket put out on the third First Day of each month, was previously approved by MM for April 2008 through October 2008.

As of the end of October 2008, \$5,000 has been raised, primarily through the monthly collection basket and approximately \$2,300 of this amount has been spent to date-- \$2,100 has been spent in support of the Iraqi family; and \$200 has been used for support of the Burmese family, especially for their extensive medical expenses. MM took on support of the Burmese family about four years ago.

Bonnie Tyler reported that the Burmese family is in critical need for support—both financial and emotional—due to a recent serious accident and the need for immediate medical assistance.

Friends received the report. @

Garry Proposed the following Minute: The Working Group be permitted to continue the third First Day collection basket for another six months. Minute Approved @

The Working Group was requested to think about doing a presentation and publishing an essay in the Newsletter describing the work of the Working Group and soliciting additional F/friends to assist in meeting the needs of these families.

200811.5. Social Justice Committee. Barbara Barry reported for the Committee. The Committee requested \$400 to be given to the IMM Refugee Fund from the Social Justice Committee funds needing MM approval. Minute Approved. @

200811.6 Nominating Committee Report (The Interim Report is available from the Recording Clerk). Melody Johnson presented the Committee's interim report and noted that the Committee is still working to find a treasurer for next year and to fill vacancies on several other committees as noted on the Committee's handout. Friends Received the Report. @

200811.7 Treasurer's report (The Financial Statement for October 2008 and proposed budget for 2009 are available from the Recording Clerk). Richard Crepeau presented the Treasurer's report for October 2008 and gave a first reading of the proposed budget for 2009. He the Financial Committee will present the final budget proposal for 2009 at the December 2008 MM. Friends received the report. @

200811.7 Financial Committee Report. Richard Crepeau reported that the Committee had considered Steve Mohlke's October MM presentation of the NYYM staffing by projects and proposed budget for 2009 and the questions raised at the October MM. The Committee queried the possible need for a committee to review the Meeting's financial relationship with NYYM and FSRM and the mode of communication between the Meeting and these two bodies.

Marilyn Ray will bring a Minute to MM in December 2008 or as soon thereafter as possible proposing a process for MM to use to examine our relationship with, financial contributions to, and mode of communication with NYYM and FSRM. @

200811.8 Other Business. Richard Crepeau reported that Bronwyn Mohlke has provided him with the list of MM phone numbers electronically. This electronic list allows him to access an individual's phone number easily. Bronwyn Mohlke will discuss the questions raised during the discussion with Larry Clarkberg, MM's web master. She will ask him to come to MM to answer questions about the benefits and risks of putting the directory on the website with password access protection. @

At 2:55 p.m., eleven F/friends continued in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business at the Café in Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell University campus December 7, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk
November 2008*

Advices & Queries

For your contemplation from *NYYM Faith & Practice*:

Query 14. *Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily lives so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?*

Advices 15. *All are especially cautioned against any harshness of tone or manner when administering counsel or reproof, either privately or in meetings. Friends should speak truth with love, remembering that if they would do God's work, they must abide in God's love. Even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of true repentance, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.*

December 2008 Calendar

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Singing** in the Edwards Room
- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 11:15a Children leave Edwards Room for **First Day School**.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Tues 9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home.
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burtt House.
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts.

Monthly Events of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Special Date: December 7th

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, before December 4th.

Special Date: December 14th

Rise of Mtg Dish-to-pass Christmas dinner in the cafe at Anabel Taylor Hall. Please bring your own table setting and a dish to share.

December Events (*For more information about asterisked items, see inside.)

December 3, Wednesday

1:15-3:00p Volunteers needed at **Kitchen Cupboard**. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-2471). Kitchen Cupboard regularly needs brown paper bags.

December 4, Thursday

Rise of Mtg **Social Justice** Committee in the cafe.*
7-9p **Round Singing** at Melody's house.*

December 7, Sunday

9:30-10:45a **Faith and Practice discussion**, 314 Anabel Taylor Hall.*

December 8, Monday

7:15p **Healthy Congregations** discussion at Burtt House.*

December 9th, Tuesday

- 12-5 Crafts sale at Unitarian Church Annex to support the work of **Fahima Vorgetts**.*
- 7pm Fahima Vorgetts speaks at Unitarian Church on "Village Life and Education in Afghanistan."
- 7:30p **Peace Witness** Committee at the Burtt House.*

December 13, Saturday

6p- **Floating Meeting**: dish-to-pass with carol singing at the Clarkberg's house, 150 Giles Street.*

December 14, Sunday

10:45a-2p **Christmas pageant** festivities and events.*

December 23, Tuesday

7:15p **Meeting for Healing**, 112 Mt. Pleasant Road.*

December 24, Wednesday

7p **Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship** at the Burtt House.

December 31, Wednesday

7p **New Year's Eve Meeting for Worship** at the Burtt House.

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christmas.



< And I'm a cake.