



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

June 2009

CONTENTS

IMM Events: 1-2
In Our Community: 2
IMM Minutes: 3
Calendar of Events: 4
Meeting Friends: 4

IMM CONTACTS

Clerk:

Tom Brown
5 Rockwell Road, Newfield, NY 14867
272-5554 • tlb4@cornell.edu

Ministry and Oversight:

Marion DaGrossa
109 Sears St., Ithaca, NY 14850
273-4020 • mdagrossa@twcny.rr.com

Treasurer:

Steve Mohlke
52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
277-4183 • smohlke@lightlink.com

Childcare Requests:

Ginny Gartlein • 272-3471

Burt House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
273-5421

Listserv:

Send email to lyris@cornell.edu. Leave the subject line blank and include: join IMMRSF-L "Your Name" (include the quotes) in the first line of the body of the message.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Due June 25th**

Materials for March's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:
Rini Clarkberg
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
277-9364 • mec30@cornell.edu

Quality of life at the end of our lives and the lives of those we love

—*Bronwyn Mohlke*

Planning in advance for the medical and legal issues that come into play as we age and at the end of our lives frees us up to focus on the spiritual and family issues that we find more meaningful.

Quakers Anita Paul and Barbara Spring of NYYM's ARCH program (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) are willing to come to Ithaca to lead a workshop on Advance Directives and end of life issues, taking into consideration Quaker Testimonies that provide guidance making these decisions.

These issues are hard to figure out on our own, and here is an opportunity to talk about them and sort through them with Friends. We are in the exploratory stages, and whether or not this workshop will take place in Ithaca depends on the interest in our Meeting.

There are options on what the workshop will include:

- **2 ½ hour workshop: Legal documents**
Choosing a Healthcare Proxy—When is the Durable Power of Attorney needed?; Living Will – Caring Conversation questions, Hard Choices for Loving People; DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders; MOLST- Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment; Vial of Life usefulness
- **4 hour workshop: Helping the end of life be meaningful and go smoothly**
Care teams, ethical wills, hospice, funeral and burial considerations
- **6 hour workshop: Spiritual Issues**
Quaker thought on end-of-life issues; Pastoral Care during life-threatening occasions; Vigiling and Final Gifts; Consideration of Quaker values of Stewardship, Simplicity & Integrity

This workshop might take place this summer, possibly Saturday, July 11. Please let Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu) know of your interest in general, and also whether you would be available on that date.

IMM Events

**Streaming Floating Meeting
Sunday, June 21, 5p**

Not just *Floating Meeting*, this time it's a *Streaming Meeting*! The "Friendly Guinea Pigs" Friendly 8s dinner group (comprised of Kris Altucher, Lynn Podhaski, & Rosie Altucher; Chris & Melissa Travis Dunham; Garry & Connie Thomas; and Pat Sewell, Gina Varrichio & Drew Varrichio) has been gathering in each other's homes for dinner on a regular basis for a couple years. On Sunday June 21, 2009 they're inviting the rest of Meeting to join them for dinner as a Floating Meeting.

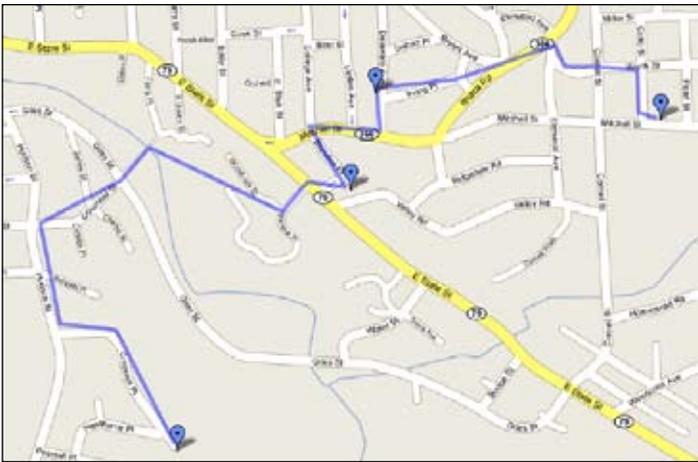
Streaming, continued on page 2

Streaming, continued from page 1

The “streaming” aspect of this dinner is that instead of gathering, eating, and sharing fellowship at *one* house, we’ll be doing it at *four* houses!

- Gather at the Altucher/Podhaski house (708 Mitchell Ave) from 5pm - 6pm for appetizers
- From there we’ll all stroll (or bike or drive) down the hill to the Thomas’s (114 Delaware Avenue) for our main course dishes from 6:15pm - 7:15pm
- Then it’s over to the Dunham’s (105 Dunmore Place) from 7:30pm - 8:30pm for dessert
- To top off the evening, we’ll go over the river (okay, Six Mile Creek) and through the woods (South Hill Rec Way) to reach the Sewell/Varrichio home (166 Crescent Place) for an after-dinner beverage from 8:50 pm until bedtime.

Fun, fellowship, and frolicking will occur along the entire route!



What better way to welcome the Summer Solstice and celebrate Fathers' Day than strolling (or biking or driving) around Ithaca with some F/friends! All the houses are within walking or biking distance of each other. Stay tuned for more details and look for a sign-up list at Meeting for Worship to indicate an interest/inclination to attend.

Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, June 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, June 23rd, 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.

Social Justice Committee Meeting Thursday, June 25th, 6p

Social Justice Committee will meet at the Burt House preceding the Earthcare Committee Meeting.

Earthcare Committee Meeting Thursday, June 25th, 7:15p

Earthcare Committee will meet at the Burt House following the Social Justice Committee Meeting.

Women’s Fellowship Friday, June 26th, 7p

Meet at the Smart Monkey Cafe to discuss hair and skin care. (Just kidding about that last part!)

Quakers in our Region

Anna Curtis Center Celebration at Powell House

Join the Powell House Community in celebrating the transformation of the Anna Curtis Center. There will be swimming, games, family activities, tours of the building, and evening bonfire, and a chance to visit with friends. There will also be time to thank the many people who gave of themselves to make this a reality. Come and stay as long as you like. Feel free to bring an instrument so we can have music at the bonfire. Donations for this event (or the Capital Campaign) are welcome. Please join us! To register, email Chris koster at christine.koster@att.net.

Meeting for Worship at Genesee Country Village

Quaker Worship at the Historic meeting house in the Genesee Country Village will be Sunday, July 12 from 11 am to noon.

Friends are asked to meet at 10:30 at the front gate. Potluck lunch will follow meeting for worship so please bring a dish to pass. Admission to the Genesee Country Village and Museum is at a discounted rate for our group: \$8 for adults ages 18 and up, \$5 for youth ages 13-17, and free for children ages 12 and under. This admission rate includes entry to the Genesee Country Village and Museum for worship and for the rest of the day.

If you would like to attend, please send a list of those attending (with each age range: Adult/Youth/Child) with payment by July 1st to Suzanne Blackburn, 9609 Riley Lane, Nunda, NY 14517. Make checks payable to Suzanne Blackburn.

In Our Community

Drilling in the Marcellus Shale: How our Many Faiths Respond

A discussion on Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00 at the UU Society of Ithaca (Sanctuary and Parlor) sponsored by Interfaith Action for Healing Earth. For more information, contact Margaret McCasland (272-2594), who works with both IAHE and the community group which is working to educate people about unconventional gas drilling).

Words to Consider from Meeting for Healing

We are built to make mistakes, coded for error.

— Lewis Thomas

(For it is through our errors that we learn and grow.)

You and I are the Phoenix. We too can reproduce ourselves from the shattered pieces of a difficult time. Our lives ask us to die and to be reborn every time we confront change—change within ourselves and change in our world. When we descend all the way down to the bottom of a loss, and dwell patiently with an open heart, in the darkness and pain, we can bring back up with us the sweetness of life and the exhilaration of inner growth. When there is nothing left to lose, we find the true self—the self that is whole, the self that is enough, the self that no longer looks to others for definition, or completion,

or anything but companionship on the journey. It's all in the way we approach the changing nature of life; it's all in the courage to say yes to whatever comes our way; it's in the way we listen for the messages in the flames and dig for the treasure in the ashes.

Each one of us, regardless of our situation, is looking for the same treasure in the ashes. We are in search of our most authentic, vital, generous, and wise self. What stands between that self and us is what burns in the fire. Our illusions, our rigidity, our fear, our blame, our lack of faith, and our sense of separation: All of these—in varying strengths and combinations—are what must die in order for a more true self to arise. To begin, we must name what needs to burn within us.

— Elizabeth Lesser

Minutes of the May 2009 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Tom Brown, Clerk; Steve Mohlke, Assistant Clerk; Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, co-Recording Clerks; Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Recording Clerk.)

200905.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on May 3, 2009, in the Cafe, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:35 PM, 16 F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read from the NYM Advices and Queries for May (available in the IMM newsletter). The Minutes were read from the April Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. @

200905.2 Nominating Committee. Melody Johnson brought the recommendation that Melissa Travis Dunham serve the remainder of Virginia Cranch's term on the Burt House Committee; APPROVED. More members are needed for this committee, as well as for Program and M&O. @

200905.3 Naming Committee. Steve Mohlke brought the committee's proposal that Sue Ruff and Alexa Yesukevich serve on the Nominating Committee. APPROVED. @

200905.4 Ministry and Oversight Committee [M&O]. Steve Mohlke brought several items from M&O.

- a) The Clearness Committee for Emily Williams and Alexa Yesukevich (consisting of Rini Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa, Nancy Gabriel, and Steve Mohlke) has found the couple clear to be married under the care of IMM, and M&O recommends that the marriage go forward. APPROVED.
- b) The concern for the clock in the Edwards Room has been discussed by the committee with input from several f/ Friends. M&O brought a recommendation that there continue to be a clock in the Edwards Room during Meeting for Worship, but that ways be found to make it quieter. APPROVED.
- c) Arianna White has expressed her desire to participate in the Out of the Nest program, and M&O has approved CALM's recommendation of Bronwyn Mohlke as her mentor. @

200905.5 Finance Committee [FC]. Dick Crepeau reported that the committee has researched ways to coordinate the various designated funds under IMM's care, and has created an internal working document to keep track of these diverse accounts. In line with these efforts, the FC brought several Minutes for the monthly meeting's discussion and approval:

- a) "The Ramallah School Fund will be laid down." This Minute was APPROVED. Concerned f/Friends will look into other appropriate ways to continue IMM's support for the Ramallah, Palestine Meeting and School.
- b) "Unused monies currently held in the Meetinghouse development Fund will be transferred back into the New Building Fund." APPROVED
- c) "The Burt House Building Fund will be discontinued and the money in it transferred into the New Building Fund." APPROVED

Other information was given on changes FC is making in how IMM finances are managed. The Cash Flow Fund will be increased to smooth out periods when commitments exceed donations. FC has also considered which committees ought to be involved in the approvals process for certain specific funds. @

200905.6 Treasurer. Steve Mohlke expressed appreciation the Finance Committee's initiatives and decisions, which facilitate the Treasurer's work. He reviewed the monthly report for April and it was received by the Meeting. @

200905.7 Clerk reported that circumstances supported a one-month extension for the Refugee Working Group's six-month report, which is expected in June. @

At 2:10 p.m., 14 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on June 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, co-Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries

From *NYYM Faith & Practice*:

Advice 6. *Parents and older Friends are advised to be sensitive to the insights of younger people and to keep a close and sympathetic contact with them. Children are urged to love and respect their parents that all may be led together to the Light Within.*

Query 6. *Do our children receive the loving care of the meeting? Does the influence of the meeting promote their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Do we offer our young people opportunities for fellowship, for service, for religious instruction, and for participation in the life of the meeting?*

June 2009 Calendar

Every Sunday

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
10:45a Children are welcome to go outside

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

June 14th

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, by June 9th.

June 28th

Rise of Mtg **Dish-to-pass brunch** behind Hector Meetinghouse.
Please bring finger foods to share.

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

June 9, Tuesday

7:30p **Peace Witness** Committee at the Burtt House.*

June 21, Sunday

5p **Streaming Floating Meeting** with the Guinea Pigs.*

June 23, Tuesday

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

June 25, Thursday

6p **Social Justice** Committee at the Burtt House.*

7:15p **Earthcare Committee** at the Burtt House.*

June 26, Friday

7p **Women's Fellowship**, Smart Monkey Cafe.*

Meeting Friends

Melanie-Claire Mallison's parents found Quakerism not long before Melanie-Claire was born. She was born into the Rochester meeting, where her membership resided until she transferred it to Ithaca in 1987.

Melanie-Claire is planning to attend Summer Sessions at Silver Bay (on Lake George) during the last week of July 19-25. This will be Melanie-Claire's 48th year going to Silver Bay! She encourages those who have never gone to give it a try. Registration information is in Spark, the New York Yearly Meeting newsletter, but you can also ask Melanie-Claire to point you to it.

In addition to serving our meeting, Melanie-Claire has been active in wider Quaker circles for many years. She is currently clerk of NYYM's Nurture Coordinating Committee and the Powell House Committee. She is contemplating a sabbatic from Yearly Meeting commitments.

Melanie-Claire is proud to be the mother of another member of our meeting, Nathan Mallison.

