



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2014

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850
607-229-9500

Clerk:

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

Assistant Clerk:

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778
mlr17@cornell.edu

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

Ministry & Worship:

Chuck Mohler
607-539-6454 • clm11@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849
ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Shirley Way, Friend-in-Residence
shirleyway61@gmail.com • 607-273-5421

Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:
IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu
with message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others about events in the Ithaca community, broader social causes or other non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:
mlr17@cornell.edu

Children and the Earthcare Agenda

To the children

To all the children

To the children who swim beneath the waves of the sea,

To those who live in the soils of the Earth,

To the children of the flowers in the meadows and the trees in the forest,

To all those children who roam over the land

And the winged ones who fly with the winds

To the human children too,

That all the children may go together into the future...

— Wendell Berry

The Earthcare Committee's Charge from our Ithaca Monthly Meeting says that we "will facilitate the consideration of Earthcare-related concerns within the life of Ithaca Monthly Meeting on an ongoing basis." To that end we have been listening to the conversations people in CALM have begun and feel that the children of our meeting have a natural priority on the Earthcare agenda. We would like to start thinking of ways we could pass on to our children a sense of wonder at what they see in nature – plants, animals, gardens, forests – and what they don't see – the miracle of atoms within molecules within cells within organisms within earth within the cosmos.

We invite anyone who would like to share their love of nature with the younger members of this meeting to please email Betsy Keokosky (evk1@cornell.edu). If you have an idea or something you'd love to share – in field trips or in meeting, as mentors or as friend – please bring them. We will work with CALM to find ways to implement them.

— Elizabeth Keokosky

Midweek Meetings

Ministry and Worship Committee reminds Friends about what seems an underused—and perhaps even unknown!—resource available to us. Many Friends' Meetings hold a midweek Meeting for Worship. In Ithaca there was a weekly Wednesday evening worship in the Burtt's living room for decades. After Ned and Marjorie bequeathed their house to IMM, the tradition has continued though with attendance dwindling from nearly twenty to sometimes one or two.

Not long after the Third Street Meetinghouse opened, midweek worship began there from 5:30–6:15 PM on Wednesdays. This meeting usually takes place in silence, and attendees share any afterthoughts they wish to. Along with the small number of IMM Friends, sometimes neighbors, community members or others who feel an affinity for Friends enjoy this quiet time at the end of the workday. Perhaps you will be moved to try it yourself.

Midweek, continued on page 2

Friends' Meetings in other places may have a more formal structure to their midweek gathering, e.g. a topic for discussion after worship, a monthly potluck supper, worship sharing. (Among Friends "worship sharing" means speaking from one's center, in turns, without "cross-talk", i.e. not discussing what others say; anyone is free to pass rather than speak as their turn comes around.)

M&W has two goals for this reminder/announcement: to inform those who may not know that our midweek worships exist, and to seek feedback from any who are interested but for some reason don't find that the current midweek meetings meet their needs. Perhaps a different day, time, or format might work better. Any member of the committee would welcome your input.

*--Members of Ministry and Worship Committee:
Nancy Gabriel, John Lewis, Chuck Mohler (convenor),
Marilyn Ray, Antonia Saxon, Alexa Yesukevich.*

Young Adult Friends Survey Is Open Now

The Young Adult Field Secretary position was established by New York Yearly Meeting two years ago to address the needs of the community of young adult Friends in our region. It is now time for us to apply for grants to fund the Young Adult Field Secretary position, and plan in NYYM for the future.

We ask Friends who are in the age range of 18-35 ish, and/or have young families to participate in this survey which will be open until February.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YAFSURVEY2014-15>

We are especially interested to hear from those who took a similar survey two years ago, even those who may have moved away, or "aged out" of this group. We would love to know how you are, where you are, and what you need now.

I will only share responses to the survey anonymously. Thank you for your voice, and response, we are deeply grateful for each and every response we get.

*— Gabrielle Savory Bailey,
Young Adult Field Secretary*

The Lift is Finished!

The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee is pleased to announce that the lift is now operational. Instructions for use are available.

— Dick Crepeau

November in IMM History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (November 8, 2009)

Formation of the Pastoral Care Committee was approved by IMM. Its charge, also approved, can be seen under Committee Charges on the IMM website.

10 Years Ago (November 14, 2004)

The memberships of Will White and children Gilbert and Lydia were transferred to IMM from New Haven Monthly Meeting.

Marilyn Ray reported the formation at Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting of a Conscience and War Counseling Group, in which she was named clerk.

15 Years Ago (November 8, 1999)

Trustees announced they had engaged attorney Martin Shapiro to negotiate for IMM with the City of Ithaca over the taking of "The Point" below the Burt House.

25 Years Ago (November 13, 1989)

Thor Rhodin, reporting for Ministry and Oversight (M&O), read proposed minutes on the deaths of Ruth Freeman and Ned Burt. A few suggested additions were made, which M&O agreed to handle.

Katy Van Dusen reported for the Sanctuary Committee that Juan has obtained a driver's permit and is working hard on obtaining his license; he is working at the Holiday Inn, and he is enrolled with a scholarship in a BOCES program to learn auto mechanics.

40 Years Ago (November 14, 1974)

Ginny Gartlein discussed the status of the Auburn (Prison) Meeting as a Preparatory Meeting. Carol Lamm reported that the Auburn Meeting is a well-attended and powerful Meeting. IMM is invited to send two representatives to the meeting. [Note: For an interesting web article on a recent celebration of the 40th anniversary of this Meeting see: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/in_the_hubbub_of_auburn_prison_finding_silence_and_humanity_in_a_40-year-old_qua.html]

65 Years Ago (November 14, 1949)

Young Friends report: Young Friends have had a meeting with the World Federalists to learn their views. George Downing reported on the Young Friends Conference at Oskaloosa (Iowa), where the theme was "What do People Look for in Quakerism?" A square dance party for old and young Friends was set for next Saturday, and a meeting with Douglas Steere (well-known Friend and guest Sage Chapel preacher) was set for Sunday night. Young Friends are also working on bringing another German student here next year.

— Tom Brown, IMM historian

Fall Sessions Registration Due November 1

We invite you to join other Friends from around New York Yearly Meeting at Fifteenth Street Meeting in NYC November 14–16. The purpose of Fall Sessions is worship over the Yearly meeting's business, enrich our children's spiritual lives through a vital youth and teen program, and "see each other's faces," as early Friends used to phrase our fellowship.

The Fall Sessions registration deadline is November 1, 2014. For more information, see <http://www.nyym.org/?q=FallSessions2014>

We encourage Friends to come and share the worship and the fellowship of the gathered Yearly Meeting, to bring your meeting's concerns to the Yearly Meeting's attention and report back the decisions of the sessions.

All sessions and meetings of Fall Sessions will take place in Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse, at 15 Rutherford Place, New York, New York 10003. Rutherford Place runs parallel to 2nd Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, and between 15th and 17th Streets, on the west side of Stuyvesant Park.

Special Meetings for Worship

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday November 27, 9am at Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday December 24, 7pm at the Burt House, 227 Willard Way.

New Year's Eve

Wednesday December 31, 11pm at the Third Street Meetinghouse. There are tentative plans for a festive gathering before worship &/or a sleepover and breakfast on New Year's Day. Details will be announced.



Upcoming at Powell House

Gifted to New York Yearly Meeting in 1960, Powell House is a Quaker conference and retreat center in the Hudson Valley conducive to spiritual reflection, inspiration, and renewal.

Most weekends, Powell House offers intergenerational, adults and youth programs.

Registration fees include room and board. As part of our commitment to create community and being a place that's us affordable for all, guests assist in mealtime and other minor chores. Scholarships and work grants are readily available, thanks to generosity of our many supporters.

To make our retreats available to parents, if given at least three weeks notice, Powell House provides childcare and a Children's Program during adult program weekends.

A Conversation about Quaker Leadership, Nov 7-9

This workshop for adults led by Joyce Schroeder is designed to advance the conversation about Quaker leadership. It will discuss the "why" and "how" of leadership. Through exercises, role plays, and diagnostic tools, it will help Friends enhance their abilities to become inwardly-focused, outwardly effective leaders in their Quaker communities.

Joyce Schroeder is a member of Purchase Friends Meeting. She works as an organizational development change consultant, designing and implementing customized culture change and leadership interventions. She served as the Keynote Speaker of the 2012 Earlham School of Religion Leadership Conference and she was the Plenary Speaker at the 2014 Summer Session of New York Yearly Meeting.

Register by October 20th: \$220/adults; \$110/ages 13-22 and commuters; \$55/infants-12. After October 20th: \$240/\$120/\$60

It's Great (for 6th - 8th graders), Nov 21-23

Back in the day, late fall was a time for storing the harvests, celebrating and planning for the cold months ahead - a time for settling into the stillness of winter. In good years, it was a time for gratitude and celebrations. This conference we will blend times of celebrating (of both elegant and rowdy versions), of recognizing and expressing our gratitude, and of settling into the deep stillness that heals, refreshes and transforms us. It's Great because we will be together, meeting new friends in old ways and old friends in new ways. Fee \$120.

Dark & Light (for 4th - 5th graders), Dec 5-7

We thrive when we have both light and dark in our daily cycle. Both the light and the darkness nurture us in different ways, while too much of either harms us. And then there are those beautiful moments in between - sunrise and sunset. The nights during this conference are over 14 hours long, but plan to explore outside at night under the full moon. Cloudy skies or clear, frigid cold or balmy fall, we will bask in the glow of the inner light in each of us. Fee \$120.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, October 12, 2014

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Sue Ruff, and Nancy Gabriel

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2014 10.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on October 12, 2014. At 12:10 pm, 16 Friends gathered and settled into worship. The clerk acknowledged Nancy Riffer who was holding the meeting in the Light.

Clerk read from “Going Beyond Testimonies in Quaker Religious Education,” Spark, September 2014:

Often [...] children do not have a real opportunity to experience the transformative power of directly knowing the Divine before they are whisked out of the meeting room. Maybe we should not be wondering why so many of our kids leave our meetings but wonder instead why they stay at all...

Teaching inner growth is not something you can fake. If you have not done some work, you do not have much to teach. If you are actively engaged in inner work, all your experience can be a well to be drawn on to help share about growth and the inner life. The outer qualities as expressed in the testimonies will grow naturally out of the inner life.

If we help our children touch the Divine, we will not have to teach about the testimonies at all. They will organically start asking questions about why we are not living more simply. Or why is there so much violence in the world. Or what it means to live in community.

Let's let the Spirit blossom out of our children.

— *Noah Pomerselig*

2014 10.2 Nominating

Bronwyn Mohlke spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The committee recommends Tom Brown to serve on the Finance Committee (through 2015), and Tom Brown and Marilyn Ray to serve on Trustees (through 2017). They would start their terms right away, rather than waiting until January. Meeting approved the nominations. @

2014 10.3 IMM's donation to New York Yearly Meeting

Steve Mohlke, our representative to New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), spoke regarding Ithaca Monthly Meeting's contribution to NYYM. NYYM will prepare its budget later in October—before we have prepared our Meeting's budget—and is asking constituent Meetings what their covenant contributions will be for 2015. Steve spoke very positively about the quality of the documentation of the NYYM budget, available at <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxtZGLccX8YsSmNsSndsMDRsRkk/view?pli=1>>.

Steve noted that for the last several years, our October commitment has been to the amount we gave in the previous year. We then considered raising the donation to NYYM during IMM's budget decision-making in November and December. Note that monthly meetings are no longer assessed on the basis of number of members. Our Treasurer noted that although we have not always met our IMM total budget request in recent years, we have generally received more than we have spent.

Meeting approved that the covenant donation to NYYM in 2015 will be at least \$15,750, the amount we gave in 2014. @

2014 10.4 Ad Hoc Burt House Committee

Antonia Saxon spoke on behalf of the Ad Hoc Burt House Committee that was created in June 2014 to explore choices that would allow the Meeting to make right use of the meeting-owned house on Willard Way.

One possibility arising is that the Burt House could be used to house a service community through Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS). QVS provides participants—typically just out of college—with a yearlong experience of living in a service community grounded in Quaker faith. These service communities are sponsored by Quaker meetings, and there are currently QVS communities established in Atlanta, Portland (Oregon), and Philadelphia.

Sponsoring Meetings are called upon to provide financial support to the community. Recently, New York Yearly Meeting has let us know that they may be able to help share the burden of starting this program, as they have roughly \$20,000 remaining from the Young Friends-in-Residence (YFIR) program that ceased operations a few years ago. In addition, one of QVS's board members has expressed interest in having our Meeting apply to host a QVS community, given the existence of the Burt House as a housing option.

Even investigating this option will involve a great deal of work, and therefore the committee seeks Meeting's guidance as to whether to pursue the possibility of having a QVS community initiated in 2016.

Friends discussed the landscape of needs in the world, and how service in our own community serves the greater good. At this early stage, it is difficult to know how QVS identifies the needs to be addressed in the community. We also do not have a full sense of the financial burden this endeavor would entail, whether other Meetings in our region might share sponsorship responsibilities, or how this use of the Burt House might relate to—or replace—the current uses of the Burt House.

Friends asked the Ad Hoc Burt House Committee to pursue additional information about this possibility. If other Friends are interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Burt House Committee, contact the clerk. @

Minutes, continued on page 5

2014 10.5 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee

Dick Crepeau reported on behalf of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. For almost a year, the TSMC has experimented with allowing community groups to use the meetinghouse in exchange for a voluntary donation rather than renting according to a strict fee schedule. After examining the data and with additional seasoning, the TSMC judges the experiment successful given current demand.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves adopting a policy of not charging community groups for the use of the meetinghouse. TSMC should continue to request a donation from groups reserving space in the meetinghouse with the previous payment schedule provided for guidance, but any payment to IMM will be completely voluntary. @

Dick indicated that the TSMC has some uncertainty about how to handle long-term usage arrangements, such as requests that may stretch over several months. Their practice has been to establish agreements for a few months at a time. Friends encouraged the TSMC to bring requests for long term arrangements to Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for notification, consideration and/or approval as the TSMC judges most appropriate. @

Garry Thomas of the TSMC further reported that the large vinyl “Quaker Meeting” banner once attached to the wall on the Third Street side of our meetinghouse has gone missing. The TSMC is in the process of researching replacing this banner with a more permanent sign of about the same size and appearance as the previous sign. The TSMC is accepting Friends’ comments about signage, and expects to return in November seeking approval to purchase a replacement.

Dick Crepeau of the TSMC then reported:

- The combination to the building has been changed. The new combination has been distributed to committee clerks and the TSMC is recording the names of people who are given the combination. Friends are reminded that the Meetinghouse should not be used for unscheduled casual use.
- The lift installation is close to complete. Final testing and certification of the new lift should occur within the next week.

Friends received the report. @

2014 10.6 Treasure’s report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance is shown with a negative \$9000 balance. This has to do with some confusion regarding the timing of paying for the lift installation that has since been resolved, incurring a most modest penalty fee from our credit union of \$5. Two small remaining fund balances—one for the Heifer Project, raised by First Day School and one for the neighborhood celebration—mentioned last month remain. Mike also reported that we are at 57% of our budget request for the year, a level well above what we have seen in the past. Mike also received a refund check from our insurance company, Church Mutual, due to overbilling. @

2014 10.7 Other concerns

A Friend recalled that Ministry & Worship was considering whether microphones might be used in Meeting for Worship. Representatives from Ministry & Worship indicated that the issue is still being investigated.

Another Friend reflected on how today’s meeting has gone smoothly, and has been blessed by both laughter and seriousness. @

Fourteen Friends settled into worship at 2:00 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on November 9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk



Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Fridays

Women's chair yoga meets on Mondays and Fridays from 11am to noon in the Third St. Meetinghouse. Gentle movements of body, mind and spirit. We all have Beginner's Mind. Just come, or contact Nancy Gabriel for information: ntg2@cornell.edu, 277-8930. We make a voluntary donation for the teacher.

Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair, December 6

The 11th annual Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian and First Baptist Churches next to Dewitt Park. The Fair offers holiday shoppers an opportunity to choose gifts of charitable donations, rather than more "stuff." Since its start in 2004, the event has brought in over \$480,000 that has gone directly to participating organizations. (Participating organizations must have a 501(c)(3) designation, an active local presence, and an annual budget of no more than \$2 million.) Perhaps you would like to volunteer to help support this annual event! For details on volunteering, contact Bronwyn Mohlke [bjqmohlke@gmail.com / 277-4183]. Also see: www.ithacaaltgiftfair.org/.

Roots of Injustice / Seeds of Change Nov 7

On Friday, November 7, at 7 p.m., St. Paul's United Methodist Church will be hosting a participatory workshop and time of reflection on the experience of Indigenous peoples in the U.S. The workshop, Roots of Injustice/Seeds of Change, comes to us from the Quaker community. It invites participants to experience symbolically the impacts of colonization and conquest on indigenous peoples, and to enter into the story of reconciliation and healing that is emerging from our collective experience. The workshop is free of charge, and will be preceded by dinner, at 6 PM (catered by the St. Paul's youth), for which donations will be invited. Please join St. Paul's congregants and friends for a time of consciousness-raising, witness and transformation!

For more information, contact Lucy Burrows, 631-744-2295. RSVP, please: office@stpaulsithaca.org (attendance limited to 40 participants) Location of church: 402 N. Aurora Street, Ithaca. Church phone: 607-273-5971.

November 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, November 9, Rise of Meeting

Join in the Quaker decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday.

Women's Fellowship Friday, November 21, 7p

Monthly get-together with IMM women for dinner, tea & a cookie, or just hanging out, knitting, catching up or getting acquainted. Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street.

The Words We Use Sunday, November 16, 9a

Sin, Righteousness, Worship, God, Jesus. Do these and other Christian words make you cringe? Would you use such words except for concern that others would misinterpret your meaning? Christianity has a rich vocabulary but the popular culture has attached meanings to many of these words that leave many of us perplexed and don't serve us very well. Marcus Borg wrote a book about this

called *Speaking Christian*. Lloyd Lee Wilson wrote a Pendle Hill pamphlet called "Who do you say that I am?" with a narrower focus. In this discussion facilitated by Steve Mohlke, we'll talk about our experiences with Christian vocabulary and meanings of words. We'll learn from each other, get to know each other a little better and likely broaden our shared vocabulary.

Brunch Sunday, November 23, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to stay for fellowship and a bite to eat after the rise of meeting. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share with others.

Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship Thursday, November 27, 9a

Join Friends at the Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road.

Newsletter submissions due Friday, November 28, 5p

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, clarkberg@cornell.edu.

Every Sunday

- 9:15a Multigenerational **worship**
- 9:30a Multigenerational **First Day School**
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 10:30a **Childcare (0-8 years old)**: attenders may exit the meetingroom when they so choose to attend childcare.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House (227 N. Willard Way)