



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2017

## IMM CONTACTS

[ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Meetinghouse:

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

### Clerk:

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[clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219  
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### Treasurer:

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### Ministry & Worship:

Annalisa Raymer  
276-944-3835 • [alr26@cornell.edu](mailto:alr26@cornell.edu)

### Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024  
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### Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Angela Hopkins  
[angela@fcrj.org](mailto:angela@fcrj.org)  
607-319-2644

### Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

[IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu](mailto:IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu)  
with message body as simply: join

### Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:  
[m1r17@cornell.edu](mailto:m1r17@cornell.edu)

### Newsletter

Submit contributions to [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu). See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

## Friends Supporting Hospicare Through Women Swimmin'

Women Swimmin' for Hospicare is a community swim (not a race!) and fundraiser to benefit Hospicare & Palliative Care Services. On Saturday, August 12, more than 300 women will swim across Cayuga Lake, escorted by about 170 volunteer boaters in canoes, kayaks or stand-up paddleboards. Throughout the summer more than two dozen women are swimmin' laps in pools around our area and across the country. Several F/friends from our Meeting are involved, in various ways, with Women Swimmin' for Hospicare:

- Marin Clarkberg will be swimmin' across Cayuga Lake for 12th time
- Gail Steinhart and Melissa Travis Dunham have been swimmin' laps all summer as part of Women Swimmin' Laps for Hospicare.
- Gail is also helping to organize volunteers this year. Bronwyn Mohlke and Chris Dunham are among those 100+ volunteers.
- The swim is a big focus for Melissa's job at Hospicare.

The funds raised through Women Swimmin' help Hospicare provide compassionate, skilled end-of-life care to our friends and neighbors throughout Tompkins and Cortland counties. Women Swimmin' also makes it possible for licensed grief counselors to provide bereavement support services to any adult in our community who is grieving a loss, regardless of when the loss happened or whether the loved one died on hospice services.

We'd love to have more F/friends join us as Laps swimmers, or volunteers or escort boaters during the Lake swim. To learn more, to volunteer or to support Marin, Gail, Melissa or any of the women who are swimmin', please visit [womenswimmin.org](http://womenswimmin.org)

— *Melissa Travis Dunham*

## GrassRoots: Cookie Sale and Day Pass Opportunity

Perry City Friends Meeting is preparing for its annual cookie sale at the GrassRoots Festival. We are most grateful for the help our F(f)riends from Ithaca have volunteered in past years. This year the Festival Office has provided us fifteen one-day passes. We can provide passes, as long as they last, for Friday and/or Saturday, July 21st and 22nd, to any one interested in helping sell. We do have to ask each person to sell for four hours each day. Selling involves mingling with Festival attendees anywhere, so it does not preclude enjoying the festivities, and still leaves hours of free time. If anyone, just out of good will, wishes to help bake we can certainly use their help. Or if anyone attending the Festival anyway would like to volunteer a few hours to sell, we'd be ecstatic. Our contact person is Tracy Kirkman. If interested, please email her at [tracyaok@ftg.net](mailto:tracyaok@ftg.net), or phone her at 607/592-8781.

— *Elizabeth Root, Perry City Friends Meeting*

## July, August in IMM History

### 15 Years Ago (July 14, 2002)

Erica Weiss was welcomed into membership of IMM.

### 35 Years Ago (July 9, 1982)

Carol Kimball was welcomed into membership of IMM upon transfer from Stony Run (Maryland) Friends Meeting.

### 40 Years Ago (July 11, 1977)

The Overseers, currently consisting of five members, recommended and Meeting agreed to have them seek one additional member. The Overseers have particular charge over marriages and memberships.

A Meeting for Worship exchange was planned with the Perry City Meeting, for which Perry City Friends would join Ithaca Friends at Hector MH on one August Sunday and Ithaca Friends would attend Perry City Meeting on a different Sunday. [This exchange was an annual event for several years, although a few Ithaca Friends kept the option to worship at Hector on the Sunday we were to join Perry City Friends. Meeting for Worship at Perry City was a programmed Meeting then and during these particular years their minister did not have a Quaker background].

It was noted at the August Meeting for Business that Hiroshima Day had been observed with a talk by Ned Burtt, a march, and an all-night vigil.

### 60 Years Ago (August 12, 1957)

The duties and role of Ministers and Overseers was discussed, with frequent referral to Faith and Practice of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Questions included the number of committee members needed, whether certain committees should have a representative on M&O, or whether IMM really needs such a “governing group.” Meeting decided not to make any changes at this time, but suggested that when Nominating Committee meets next spring, they consider keeping this committee as small as possible. At this time Meeting also had three Elders and two Overseers.

### 65 Years Ago (July 14, 1952)

There was a discussion of how Nominating Committee is to be instructed concerning the tenure of Meeting officers. It was decided that this year’s Nominating Committee should feel free to change any or all officers except for Elders, who are permanent. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Sarah Oliver, Ruth Freeman, and Ruth Clerk, was instructed to present officers for Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, two Overseers, Young Friends Coordinator, Council of Church Women representative, Odyssey editor, and Chairman of the following committees: Program Service, First Day School, and Hospitality. These nominations were presented at the August 11 Meeting for Business. Harrop Freeman, nominated as Coordinator for Young Friends, stated that he would accept the position only if he could be free from imposing a program on the Young Friends and if he could carry on the work without using the Meeting’s office in Anabel Taylor Hall, as he felt he could not be personally associated in his own mind or in the mind of the students with a war memorial.

— Tom Brown, *Meeting Historian*

## Threshing Session Concerning NYYM Monthly Meeting Partners Project

Several Friends have expressed an interest in Ithaca Monthly Meeting applying to become part of the New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Monthly Meeting Partners Project (MMPP). This year NYYM will accept two Monthly Meetings to become part of a project designed to “learn more effective new modes and methods of outreach and inclusion of children and families, while also helping Quaker meetings to deepen in Spirit and grow as a multi-age community.” If accepted, our Meeting would gather information and create a better understanding our condition through surveys and listening circles, and with the help of the Yearly Meeting’s Children and Youth Field Secretary, discern the next steps in outreach and multigenerational community-building. Knowledge and insights we gained would be shared with other Friends through the work of the Yearly Meeting.

We will begin our discernment about a possible application with a threshing session on Sunday, July 16. We will start with a pot-luck dinner at 6:00. Everyone, especially our youth, are invited to attend and participate in the discernment. For further information about MMPP, you can visit the NYYM website at <http://www.nyym.org/?q=MonthlyMeetingPartnersProject>.

— John Lewis

## Peace and Social Justice Seeks Suggestions

Each year, we give modest amounts of money to various worthy efforts and organizations that are active in doing peace and social justice work. Do you have suggestions for such efforts you would like to share with us? We will give them thoughtful consideration as we discern how best to allocate the funds in our stewardship.

— Susan Wolf

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, June 11, 2017**

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Clerk: John Lewis  
Assistant Clerk: Bronwyn Mohlke  
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(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.)

### 2017 6.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 11, 2017. At 12:15pm, nine Friends gathered and settled into worship.

*"May words of the Spirit be spoken and words of the Spirit be heard."*

Referencing the light agenda, Clerk indicated that no one individual was designated as holding the Meeting in the Light and read the following:

*"For the real difference between happiness and joy is that one is grounded in this world, the other in eternity. Happiness cannot encompass suffering and evil. Joy can. Happiness depends on the present. Joy leaps into the future and triumphantly creates a new present out of it."*

— Elise Boulding, *William Penn Lecture, Arch St. Meetinghouse, Philadelphia, 1956*

### 2017 6.2a CALM: Change in Committee Charge

On behalf of the Children & the Life of the Meeting Committee (CALM), Ellie Rosenberg described the history, process and priorities involved in proposing the following change to the committee charge:

"The charge of CALM is to create opportunities to welcome, nurture, and integrate children and their families into the Religious Society of Friends and our own Meeting."

This charge will be accomplished by...

- Helping to foster positive interactions among our children and youth, recognizing that peer relationships create a deep support system for life. Teachers will help them practice conflict management, communication, and other interpersonal skills.
- Providing engaging religious education for children and youth that incorporates their suggestions and invites their authentic leadership and practice of Quaker process.
- Offering youth a solid grounding in Quaker history, beliefs, process, and experience.
- Helping children and youth recognize their spiritual leadings based on a connection to the divine around and within, on questioning, and on testing for clearness with others.
- Building a multi-generational faith community that supports relationships across ages.
- Integrating our children and youth into the work of the Meeting.

A brief period of comment followed. Friends approved this change of CALM committee charge. @

### 2017 6.2b CALM: Proposal to join NYYM's Partnership Project

On behalf of CALM, Ellie Rosenberg expressed the committee's desire to have IMM join in the Partnership Project a larger effort by NYYM to develop new modes of outreach and inclusion for children and families while also helping local meetings deepen in spirit and grow as multi-age communities. Discussions with NYYM's Children & Youth Field Secretary, Melinda Wenner Bradley led to an understanding of the process and action steps by which this can be accomplished. If IMM discerns this is something we, as a meeting, wish to pursue, the application is due by September 1, 2017. Clerk will coordinate ongoing efforts via M&W and CALM. @

### 2017 6.3 Peace and Social Justice: Report to IMM Regarding Temporary Housing for a Friend at the Burtt House

On behalf of the Peace & Social Justice Committee, Elizabeth Keokosky presented a report detailing and resulting from a meeting of PSJ, Tom Ruscitti & Angela Hopkins regarding temporary housing at the Burtt House for an individual who had attended Meeting for Worship previously and who may soon be released from prison. Under the terms of the Friends Center for Racial Justice's (FCRJ) use of the Burtt House, the responsibility for temporary housing decisions lies with FCRJ rather than IMM. Friends asked questions and discussed specifics related to the ongoing relationship between FCRJ and PSJ that led to several other concerns (see 6.5 below).

Friends received the report. @

### 2017 6.4 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Mike Simkin reviewed activity, balances and highlights that represent IMM's financials for the previous month.

Friends received the report. @

### 2017 6.5 Other Concerns

A concern was raised about our meeting's long-term agenda for supporting re-entry for formerly incarcerated individuals – what this ultimately will look like and how it might best be achieved. Because of the difficulty returning citizens experience when trying to find local housing, if individual Friends can take someone in and/or know of apartments that will house returning citizens they are earnestly requested to inform PSJ. @

### 2017 6.6 Closing Worship

Eleven Friends settled into silent worship at 1:35pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on July 9, 2017.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Blair Jennings*

## **Women's Chair Yoga, most Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon**

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. No experience or equipment needed. The summer schedule might vary sometimes—for example, there is no group on July 3rd. Please check with Nancy Gabriel the day before: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

## **Tai Ji Quan, Tuesdays 7:30-8:30p**

Peaceful. Although being a martial art, this class is a welcoming and warm retreat focused on well being and health. The most likely self defense situation that we hope our class helps prepare for is avoiding slips and falls. Contact Chris Dunham for more information. Donations to cover costs.

# **July 2017 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Friends General Conference, July 2-8**

This annual gathering of Quakers from far and wide is in Niagara Falls, NY this year. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

## **Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, July 6, noon**

The \$10 lunch buffet at Diamond's Indian restaurant provides a great opportunity to get together! For more information, contact Lynn Podhaski at [lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com) or Liam Murphy at [liamgbmurphy@verizon.net](mailto:liamgbmurphy@verizon.net).

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, July 9, Rise of Meeting**

Join the Quaker decision-making process. Proposed agenda items should be sent to our clerk, John Lewis, by the preceding Monday.

## **Women's Fellowship Friday, July 14, 7p**

New date! New location! Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will be at Ten Forward, a vegetarian/vegan cafe above Autumn Leaves bookstore on the Commons. Ten Forward is open until 10pm.

## **Threshing Session Sunday, July 16, 6p**

A threshing of whether to apply to become part of the NYYM Monthly Meeting Partners Project; see page 2 for more information. We will begin our discernment about a possible application with a threshing session on Sunday, July 16. We will start with a pot-luck dinner at 6:00.

## **Sessions at Silver Bay, July 23-29**

Visit <http://www.nyym.org/?q=SummerSessions2017> for more information about this annual gathering in the Adirondacks.

## **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 27, 5p**

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

## **Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, July 30, Rise of Meeting**

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

## **Beyond July: Save the Date**

### **Lynn Grove's Memorial Meeting, August 26**

Long-time Friend Lynn Grove passed away on May 25, 2017. We will hold a Memorial Meeting for worship on Saturday, August 26, at 4:00 pm in the Third Street Meetinghouse.

### **Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance, August**

The Peace and Social Justice Committee is organizing this annual Remembrance in early August. We will announce plans on the Meeting's list serve and in the August Newsletter. If you have any questions, contact Elizabeth Schneider, 607-273-3566.

### **ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help), September 9**

ARCH will offer its next social for elders on Saturday, September 9th. It's going to be a fun, relaxing, nostalgic event. Details coming next month. Curious? Stay tuned!

## **On Sundays**

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at the Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a **Children in childcare** enter the meetingroom for inter-generational Meeting for Worship.

## **Other Weekly IMM Events**

### **Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House Wednesdays at 7:30p**

The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.