



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2017

## IMM CONTACTS

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

### Meetinghouse:

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

### Clerk:

John Lewis • 607-227-6273  
[clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219  
[bjqmohlke@gmail.com](mailto:bjqmohlke@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Mike Simkin  
607-387-5174 • [mes13@cornell.edu](mailto:mes13@cornell.edu)  
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

### Ministry & Worship:

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

### Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024  
[ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com)

### 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:  
[mlr17@cornell.edu](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)

### Newsletter

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

## Take a Survey: Monthly Meeting Partners Project

Do we want to become a more welcoming multi-generational, multi-cultural community? Perhaps the Monthly Meeting Partners Project would be the program to move us forward. We are seeking discernment about whether to apply and are asking Friends to help by filling out a survey that asks for your insights into the life of our Meeting and the role it could play in our community.

New York Yearly Meeting has invited Meetings to consider participating in the Monthly Meeting Partners Project. The heart of the project is intensive work with six monthly meetings or worship groups over the next three years that seeks new ways to best support the spiritual lives of children and youth and nurture multi-generational community life and worship. The Children and Youth Field Secretary (CYFS) and other Yearly Meeting staff will work closely with the partner Meetings, who will commit time, energy and resources. For more details on the Monthly Meeting Partners Project, go to <http://nyym.org/content/monthly-meeting-partners-project>.

Some Friends are very excited about this project and the opportunity to work with CYFS Melinda Wenner Bradley. They believe that it will not only strengthen our sense of community and spiritual growth across all generations, but also help us understand how to become a more welcoming community across different cultures as well. The question at hand is whether our Meeting as a whole has the necessary level of interest and energy to apply and to do the work if accepted.

Here is the link to the survey: <https://goo.gl/59ju5d>. Completing at least part of the survey by September 7 will help us with our discernment. If we get enough responses, we will consider application to the project at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on First Day, September 10. If you do not wish to respond online, you can contact the clerk, John Lewis at 227-6273.

## Brush up your Quaker Basics beginning September 17

Whether you are new to Meeting or deeply steeped, you are most kindly welcomed to take part in any, some, or all of Quaker Basics, a six-session series this Fall.

Meeting every other Sunday evening at 7:00 pm, these reflective and informative sessions will take place at the Third Street Meeting House. All who attend are warmly welcomed to join in as we revisit and further explore these topics:

- 9/17 What are Friends doing during Meeting for Worship?
- 10/1 How did the Religious Society of Friends Come into being?
- 10/15 How have Quaker testimonies been applied in different historical contexts?
- 10/29 What is Quaker process? How do we practice our faith in community?

*Quaker Basics, continued on page 2*

## Quaker Basics, continued from page 1

11/5 How diverse is Quakerism? What are the differences and commonalities among Friends?

11/19 How do you let your Light speak?

The Quaker Basics ad hoc planning group, comprised of: Alexa Yesukevich, John Lewis, Bronwyn Molhke and Annalisa L. Raymer, is a subset of Ministry and Worship. Contact any of us if you have questions or concerns. Childcare will be provided.

### Friendly Correspondent Needed

Two members of the Attica Prison Worship Group have reached out, asking for Quaker correspondents. They feel isolated from the community of Friends, and would welcome letters. I have been corresponding with them and find their letters most enjoyable. If you want more information, please contact me: Susan Wolf, 718-702-8903, QuakerWolf@gmail.com.

### Watercolors, Silent Auction

On Sunday Oct. 1, from 1-3 pm, you are invited to the opening of Ruth Yarrow's watercolor show at Argos Inn, 408 E. State St. It will be a silent auction for the month of October, a benefit for Southside Community Center. Watercolor note cards will also be on sale.

### Announcing the Inception of Justice Choir Ithaca

Justice Choir Ithaca is forming for Ithacans to sing together, in joy or sorrow or rage. We will meet periodically to learn songs and share spirit and plans. We will assemble when the occasion arises, to stand together and sing in response to injustice here or elsewhere.

Please join our email list at [justicechoirithaca@gmail.com](mailto:justicechoirithaca@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeChoirIthaca/>.

Justice Choir Ithaca intends to be a chapter choir of the organization in Minneapolis.

## First Day School: In Search of Adults

We are in need of teachers for First Day School this year. We hope to have a 3 to 7 year old group, an 8 year old to 12 year old group, and a 13 to 18 year old group. We need teachers for the two younger groups. If you would like to make a regular or part-time commitment, or would just like more information, please get in touch with Ellie: [ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com), or 607-227-1403.

### Childcare too!

We are also in need of a wonderful *paid* childcare worker for our youngest Friends during worship. If you know of someone who could do this please tell Ellie.

### Message from Live Oak Meeting in Houston

Thank you for all whom have expressed their concern and desire to help with relief for those suffering from Hurricane Harvey and the widespread flooding. We are grateful that our meetinghouse was unharmed and remained high and dry.

If you would like to contribute toward hurricane relief, you may send your check to Live Oak Friends Meeting, 1318 W. 26th St., Houston, TX 77008, noting "Fund for Sufferings, hurricane relief" on the check. Or, you may contribute through Paypal, at <http://friendshouston.org/>. Be sure to specify "Fund for Sufferings, hurricane relief" in the "add a note" section on the Paypal donation form.

Our Care and Concern Committee will see that contributions are used in the most effective way possible.

— Jimmy Pryor, Treasurer, Live Oak Friends Meeting.

## September in IMM History

### 5 Years Ago (September 9, 2012)

IMM joined with the Genessee Valley Quaker Meeting's minute opposing hydrofracking in New York State.

### 10 Years Ago (September 9, 2007)

A Memorial Minute for Edith Edgerton was read and approved with minor changes. A Memorial Service for Louis Edgerton was held on September 2, with Ed Cranch representing Ministry and Oversight in the arrangements. A Memorial Service for Edith Edgerton is being planned.

### 25 Years Ago (September 14, 1992)

A proposal was brought to Meeting as part of a follow-up of a recent retreat that Nominating Committee name a Committee of Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM). The proposal included several ways to welcome and include children. Meeting approved giving this charge to Nominating Committee. The charge includes contacting members of the current First Day School Committee to discuss the proposal.

### 30 Years Ago (September 14, 1987)

Appreciation was expressed for the deeply gathered Meeting held with Perry City Friends at their Meetinghouse last first day. It had a sense of caring that Friends hoped would lead to our being able to help each other when needs arise.

### 65 Years Ago (September 21, 1952)

A Called Meeting was held to determine where to have Meeting for Worship on future Sundays, i.e., whether to agree to meet in Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell's religious education building which is also a war memorial, or to seek a different place. Several possible alternative meeting places were discussed, including the Women's Community Building and a basement room in the Odd Fellows Hall, diagonally across the street from the Women's Community Building. After much discussion, Meeting agreed to a trial period of worship in Anabel Taylor starting the following First Day. (Note: Meetings for Worship during the academic year continued at Anabel Taylor until the Third Street Meetinghouse opened in 2011. Business Meetings were held at various future times in the homes of members, in Anabel Taylor, and at the Burtt House. Summer Meetings for Worship were held at the Hector Meeting House and Business Meetings were frequently held there also.)

### 70 Years Ago (September 15, 1947)

Out of a recent letter from Francis Dart, former IMM member and now with the AFSC in Germany, Meeting decided to send a relief package of about 70 pounds each month to Francis Dart, consisting of food, clothing, and sewing materials. The Freeman's home was to serve as a center for gathering and wrapping the contributions. The Service Committee was to be in charge but everyone was encouraged to participate.

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

## Sources of IMM Historical Information

**Question: What sources of information do you have and regularly use? How difficult is it to use those sources?**

The most frequently used source by far is the minutes of previous Business Meetings. From 1995 to the present, these minutes are in MS WORD files, with several consecutive years in most files, arranged by month. They are easy to use; WORD has a "find" function that allows one to enter a name or other key word and find topics quite rapidly. I also transcribed minutes from FY1974-75 and 1976, which were stored at the Burtt House, into WORD format. Earlier minutes from 1926 have been obtained from the Swarthmore Friends Library and digitized, except for the period between May 1971 and June 1974; those minutes were lost in a fire. These earlier digitized minutes were taken from microfilm and are in a pictorial format—usually pdfs. One can scan through them quickly to reach a given month and year but they cannot be indexed by subject in any way.

These digitized minutes often include other documents that previous recording clerks have inserted: annual reports, treasurer's reports, special committee reports, and copies of newspaper articles. In addition, the oldest file contains information about the founding and early years of IMM before it became an official monthly meeting.

I have also obtained digitized records of the Hector Monthly Meeting from 1860 (it first met in Jacksonville in 1865) through 1950. I'll devote another column to this topic.

Over the past 15 years, roughly, I have also kept a file of memorial minutes and annual reports. I use these less often but they are available if any Friend has need of them.

**Question: What other information sources would you like to have? Where are the gaps?**

It is hard to state sources that I don't know exist, but some of you may be aware of one or more. Over the past year Friends have given me a copy of a 1960s column by Carol Kammen, a website about the Sanctuary movement in the 1980s, and a thesis on the life of Marjorie Burtt has been donated to the Burtt House library. So it's quite likely that there are more history sources out there that Friends would be interested in. If you have something, please let me know; I would be happy to borrow and copy it if you want to keep it. Also, interesting information sometimes comes from oral history. Particularly for long-time members and attenders, if you have recollections of significant events in the life of IMM that might shed additional light on often brief Business Meeting minutes, I would like to speak to you about them.

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Questions for this column were suggested by Simon St. Laurent.

## Coming in October, November

### Presentation: Lacrosse, the Creator's Game

Saturday October 7th, 4p

Alfred Jacques of the Onondaga Nation will share his knowledge and wisdom on the history of and information about lacrosse and other ball games played in Native Nations. He will have the equipment from various ball games to show us.

This event includes a traditional Corn Soup supper and a film:

- We will share a traditional Haudenosaunee corn soup, corn bread, salad, and strawberry drink. Meat and vegan soup will be provided. Cornbread will be gluten-free with a vegan version available.
- Family-friendly film showing of "Crooked Arrows": A struggling Native lacrosse team finds strength and power in reconnecting with culture and tradition. The film was made with Haudenosaunee input and advice and with the support of Haudenosaunee Nations.

Please note: We need an RSVP so we can plan the meal. Please RSVP to Susan Wolf by September 30th: 718-702-8903, QuakerWolf@gmail.com

### Quaker Values and End-of-Life Decisions, October 22

ARCH will have a workshop on the Quaker version of Five Wishes on Sunday, October 22nd. Come and sit with friends to consider your end-of-life wishes, and perhaps take the time to complete the booklet while we are together.

### ARCH Vigiling Workshop, November 18

Angela Mennito will lead us in a workshop on ways to hold a bedside vigil with someone gravely ill or dying. More information to follow.

### Concert at Rochester Friends Meeting, Sept 17

The Cobbs Hill Consort will perform at Rochester Friends Meeting on Sept 17 @ 3:00 pm, a Fringe of the Fringe event. Free, with donations welcomed. RFM's half of the donations will be directed to the Individual Assistance Fund.

Based in Rochester, this ensemble features Native American flute, harp, guitar, drums and percussion. The music is soothing, emotive, and transporting, engaging you in a journey of the heart. Two of the performers, Jefferson Svengsouk and Sandy Gianniny, are part of the UR Medicine Palliative Care Program and share their musical gifts as part of their care giving roles.

## Minutes, continued from page 5

### 2017 8.7 Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice and Education Subcommittee

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice and the Education Subcommittee, Ruth Yarrow reported that the Friends Center for Racial Justice's mission, process and programming is now sufficiently meeting the stated goals of both, and requested they be laid down.

Friends approved laying down the committees.@

### 2017 8.8 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Simkin reported on the overall health and well-being of IMM's finances. As is consistent with IMM & Mike's process, he will be conducting a periodic review of budget items, practices and procedures.

Questions related to the monthly report were asked and answered.

Friends received the report.@

### 2017 8.9 Other Concerns

Clerk expressed great appreciation for IMM's patience and support as he acclimates to the clerkship of IMM.

A Friend shared a description of the variety of "rummage" found in the attic and basement at the Burtt House and related how it is being managed. She further asked if IMM would approve the donation of a couch (currently in use at the Burtt House, but not essential) to a friend seeking furniture for a new apartment on August 15th. This was referred to Burtt House Committee for approval.

A Friend representing the Library Committee offered thanks and appreciation for the purchase of books from summer sessions that were donated to IMM from the NYYM's Mosher Fund.

A Friend shared a concern that Ithaca Area Clergy has asked for IMM to purchase an ad. This has been referred to IMM's Peace and Social Justice Committee for review of content. The final content of the ad, as well as the ad purchase will be decided at September's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

A concern was raised about purchasing listening devices and blue "access" buttons to automate the opening of IMM's various doors. These concerns have been referred to the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee.

### 2017 8.10 Closing worship

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 2:09 P.M. before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on September 10, 2017.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Blair Jennings*

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, August 13, 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 8.1 Opening Worship**

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on August 13, 2017. At 12: 20 P.M., 22 Friends gathered and settled into worship.

*“May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.”*

Clerk recognized Steve Mohlke who was Holding the Meeting in the Light and read the following:

*“In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger, and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds.” — Henry Nouwen*

**2017 8.2 Application to Become Part of the NYYM Meeting Partnership Project**

Clerk provided additional information based on a conversation with Melinda Wenner-Bradley, NYYM’s Children and Youth Field Secretary. She indicated this project is experimental in nature—aka a work in process with the final “product” essentially & concretely created by those involved—and she is open to considering a joint application with Perry City Meeting; NYYM would be open to this as well. According to Melinda, the most important factor is the Meeting’s willingness to openly explore its welcoming culture to figure out how multigenerational participation might be achieved/enhanced. The application deadline is September 30th.

IMM threshing sessions yielded the feeling that there is interest around learning how to become a more welcoming meeting. Biggest concern: energy & conflict with current initiatives.

A Friend shared that at Perry City Meeting’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, they indicated they are in about the same place IMM is as far as interest/energy.

This initiative is consistent with the mission of the Friends Center for Racial Justice.

Questions about logistics, desired outcomes & results, as well as personal experiences were shared and discussed.

Friends decided to gauge enthusiasm/energy by asking Meeting, as a whole to respond to the 11 pre-application queries. Clerk anticipates asking for help sifting through the responses and determining the way forward, with the final decision about submitting the application taken up at September’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.@

**2017 8.3 NYYM Social Media Experiment Phase II project**

Melanie-Claire Malison shared background and further informa-

tion about this project. Discussion yielded a sense that the deadline for this project is too tight to allow participation, but that there was significant interest and willingness by a committed group of Friends to further explore the questions surrounding and/or benefits of a greater Facebook presence for our meeting.

A concern was raised about IMM’s assuring deep consideration as to how the increased use of social media platforms fits with our beliefs and practices as Quakers.

Experiences with Friends utilizing a Facebook page were shared.

Friends decided not to participate in the NYYM Social Media Experiment. Friends approved the formation of an ad hoc social media working group to explore how IMM might create, incorporate and maintain a social media presence via Facebook. Interested Friends can join the ad hoc working group by contacting Melanie-Claire Malison, Karen Friedeborn or Simon St. Laurent.@

**2017 8.4 Earthcare Committee: Hosting Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF) 2018 Summer Session**

On behalf of IMM’s Earthcare Committee, Betsy Keokosky presented history, background and information related to the minutes below. Questions about logistics & long-term planning were discussed and personal experiences were shared.

1. IMM supports the Earthcare Committee in proceeding with planning for a Quaker Institute of the Future’s Summer Research Seminar to be held in Ithaca in July of 2018 (tentatively 8th–15th).

Friends approved the minute.@

2. IMM’s Treasurer will create a short-term, special fund in the fall of 2017 for the Earthcare Committee to use as host for the Quaker Institute of the Future’s 2018 Summer Research Seminar. The initial \$200 in the fund will come from Earthcare’s 2017 Meeting-approved funds.

Friends approved the minute.@

**2017 8.5 Nominating Committee Report**

On behalf of Nominating Committee, Nancy Riffer reported the following nominations:

- Jill Marie for Children and the Life of the Meeting
- Marilyn Ray and Wallace Watson as representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Friends approved the nominations.@

**2017 8.6 Request from the Clerk: Expenses incurred by Friends taking care of a deceased Friend**

Clerk described the circumstances surrounding this request: a Friend has asked for a \$159 reimbursement for medication purchases related to the deceased Friend. IMM Treasurer indicated there is a special needs fund that can be accessed for this purpose.

Friends approved the reimbursement.@

*Minutes, continued on page 4*

## **Women's Chair Yoga, 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. Please check with Nancy Gabriel the day before: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

## **Old-Time Square Dance Night, September 16**

All who enjoyed the dance at the Barrys' barn—and anyone who's sorry to have missed it—might like to go to this event at the Enfield Valley Grange, Sept 16, 7-10pm. Live Music by The West Hillbillies, with Nancy Spero calling. Refreshments available. Cosponsored by the Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming. \$5-\$15 suggested donation.

The event is a benefit for the Enfield Valley Grange Building Fund. The Grange is a non-partisan rural/farm advocacy group dedicated to promoting the political, economic and social well-being of rural families.

## **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.

## **Richie Sing, September 16**

Come join us in joyful, group singing on Saturday, Sept 16, at the Friends Meetinghouse, 120 Third Street. Enter via the parking lot in back. Dish-to-pass at 6:30, singing at 7:30. All are welcome; bring your children, friends, voices, instruments. Learn some new songs and request your favourites.

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

## **Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, September 7, 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 or Liam Murphy at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

## **Women's Fellowship Friday, September 8, 7p**

Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will be at Ten Forward, a vegan cafe above Autumn Leaves bookstore on the Commons. There is plenty of room!

## **ARCH Social Saturday, September 9, 2p**

Remember childhood days when you whiled away hours with coloring or other fun and relaxing pastimes? Come and indulge in some nostalgia with adult coloring. If you have another similar pastime to offer, bring it to share. We will have refreshments and reminisce about how we spent those long hours with friends. Sponsored by ARCH (Aging, Resources, Consultation and Help).

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 10, Rise of Meeting**

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

## **Meeting for Healing Wednesday, September 27, 5:45p**

All are welcome to a Meeting for Healing at 5:45 at the Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way in Ithaca. Dreia Spies can provide more information.

## **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, September 28, 5p**

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

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

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

### **On Sundays**

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.