



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

October 2010

IMM CONTACTS

Clerk:

Steve Mohlke
52 Gray Road • Ithaca NY 14850
607-216-8411
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
3137 Jacksonville Road
Trumansburg NY 14886
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

Ministry & Worship:

Carolyn Kenyon
607-273-7922 • ckenyon@twcny.rr.com

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ginny Gartlein • 607-272-3471

Burt House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
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 body of the message as simply:

join

Events:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Newsletter Submissions Due October 28th

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg:
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
607-279-4722 • mec30@cornell.edu

On Membership

Rebecca Tanner

"Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."

— *Antoine de Saint-Exupery:*
Wind, Sand and Stars

Recently, a request was made of me by our committee on Ministry and Worship and I said "yes" without hesitating. As I complete this task, I am aware of just how difficult the task at hand is; how seriously it is to be taken and how much preparation, contemplation, prayer, and study has been required that I might reach the point where writing an article for our newsletter about "Membership" is even possible.

In preparing to share a bit of what I have learned about the meaning of membership in the Religious Society of Friends I first returned to some of the reading I did as a young adult in the weeks and months

prior to my own clearness committee at the Flushing Monthly Meeting. I went to my 1974 edition of Faith and Practice and looked at the section on membership, comparing it to the section in the current (2001) edition, and was glad to find the two remarkably similar. The meaning of membership in the Religious Society of Friends remains basically unchanged, based as it is on the long history and experience of Friends since the seventeenth century.

Part of the essential genius of the Society is the experience of growth through common worship and the loving acceptance of an individual by the group. It is an open fellowship which recognizes that of G-d in every one.... Those inclined to join with us... should attend meetings for worship for a sufficient period of time to become convinced that this central practice in the life of the meeting affords personal satis-

Membership, continued on page 5

The Meetinghouse Project: A need for short-term loans

In September, Ithaca Monthly Meeting approved going ahead with renovations on the old Pangea restaurant at a cost that is forecast to be covered by pledges and the sale of the Route 79 land. But since some of these funds won't be available until after invoices for the renovation start to arrive, we need funds to tide us over. Our choices are to borrow funds to cover these costs from a bank, at roughly 5% annual interest, or else to borrow from members and attenders of the Meeting at lower rates. At September Meeting for Business, a finance report spoke of borrowing funds from within the Meeting and paying the lenders interest on those loans.

Equality and community

A concern was raised at that meeting: What would be the consequences of paying Meeting funds to lenders who were within the Meeting? Would that not create an inequality within the Meeting—a division between those whose donations would go to cover the interest payments on the loans, and those who would gain from those interest payments? What would be the consequences of this division for our Meeting community?

The Finance Committee was aware of other meetings that had funded projects this way. At Meeting for Business we minuted

Borrowing funds, continued on page 2

the decision to carry out a small, informal survey of other meetings which had accepted loans from within their own Meetings to see if there had been any adverse consequences.

Four meetinghouse projects; four experiences with borrowing

Meeting 1 borrowed funds from the FGC Meetinghouse Fund at 7% interest for their meetinghouse project. They also received the offer of a loan from the parents of a member of the Meeting. Because the Meeting member was not involved personally, the question of the appropriateness of interest payments did not come up, and they accepted the offer without hesitation. The Meeting and the lenders drew up an agreement with the help of an attorney, and the loan was paid back without any problems.

Meeting 2 financed its meetinghouse with a mortgage from the FGC Meetinghouse Fund. There were no concerns about borrowing from within the Meeting. The clerk said that the only source of tension having to do with financing the project was that many people who had been hit hard by the recession felt distressed because they wanted to donate to the project and were not able to. Many people in the meeting lost their jobs while the project was going on. Some had to reduce pledges they had already made.

(Meeting 1 also said that there was some tension in the meeting about donating funds to the project. Their clerk said that a few sporadic attenders had left the meeting due to pressure they felt to pledge.)

Meeting 3 was about to take out a mortgage from the FGC fund when a single meeting member stepped forward and offered to lend them the same amount at a much lower rate. There were many concerns about this offer ("What if he dies?" "What if he leaves the meeting?"). Their meeting formed a small committee to make a list of all the questions people had and thresh through them. Extensive questioning of the member by the committee allayed people's anxieties. They drew up the loan agreement with the help of an attorney. After the success of this arrangement, another member stepped forward and offered another, smaller loan, and they accepted that offer, too. They have been paying down the loans without incident, and they anticipate paying them back early. In retrospect, their treasurer said the meeting viewed the loan offers as a "huge favor" to the meeting; she said they felt they would much rather the funds go into the pocket of someone in the meeting than to some institution—even to the FGC.

Meeting 4 financed their renovation project with a loan from the FGC Meetinghouse Fund and several loans from members. The people I spoke to said that they experienced the loan offers as "a gift to the meeting." They reasoned that the loan represent-

ed an easing of the burden for those in the meeting who were on the lower end of the donation scale. Because the meeting's interest payments were lower, the project was less expensive and fewer donations were needed. In addition, the treasurer made out the interest checks every year and sent them to the lenders with a letter that asked if the lenders would consider giving the interest back to the Meeting as a gift. Several lenders did this over several different years. Not all of them did it every year; it depended on each lender's individual situation. The meeting anticipates paying the loan off in full this year, ten years after the project was completed; they are ahead of schedule.

At the October Meeting for Business, the Finance Committee will ask if this information further clarifies Meeting's intent to borrow money from within the Meeting rather than seeking a loan from a lending institution.

How the loans would work

To give our Meeting the funds we need to pay Latipac, the contractor, until pledges come in and the land on the Route 79 property is sold, we invite all Meeting members and attenders to offer loans. In order to keep things simple for our treasurer, we ask that the offers be denominated in \$5,000 increments. Those who want to lend more can offer as many \$5,000 loans as they like. The interest rate should be specified with each offer. (For example, if there are Friends who would be willing to forgo the interest altogether or to accept less than 3.5%, let us know. An offer could be for \$5,000 at 0% interest and \$10,000 at 3.5% interest.) Since we already have offers sufficient to cover the entire \$200,000 at 3.5%, there is no need to offer loans at a higher interest rate. We are proposing that the term of the loans be three years and that interest be paid quarterly.

(Interest will be simple, not compound.) The Meeting will retain the right to repay the loans at any time as funds become available. Repayment will consist of the amount of the original principal plus the interest that has accrued since the last quarterly interest payment. The principal would need to be available by the end of November this year.

Meeting will accept the offers with the lowest interest rates first. If we have offers of more principal than necessary, not all offers will be accepted. We will pay off higher-interest loans first.

If Meeting approves these procedures and you would like to offer the Meeting a loan, please contact Mike Simkin, our treasurer.

Mike Simkin
3137 Jacksonville Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886
607-387-5174
<mes13@cornell.edu>



Rise Up Singing Benefit Concert a Success

Our September 18th Benefit Concert was a wonderful success. We had good attendance and many attenders have told me how much they enjoyed it, and how all the children felt so included and comfortable.

Peter and Annie were impressed with the size of our audience. They also commented on how smoothly everything went, how everyone pitched in and all the pieces came together.

We had over thirty meeting volunteers and many other F/friends contributed to the bake sale and auction. We netted close to \$2000 from the ticket sales (after \$600 in payment plus travel expenses went to Peter & Annie and \$75 to one of our monitors). Gina had over \$2,000 in successful bids for the auction (see right); some of that money is still coming in. The bake sale proceeds were \$235.

In addition, our Meetinghouse project has been widely publicized and our Ithaca community has had a chance to support it.

Many thanks, Friends!

— *Melody Johnson*



Our new meetinghouse now has interior stairs to the second floor.

Contractor Scott Smith from Latipac surveys the kitchen floor situation.



Thank Our Donors!

A big *thank you* to all those who helped make the silent auction a success! Without donors, solicitors, the set-up crew, and the bidders, we'd be \$2000 poorer. A special thank you to the Quaker-friendly businesses who contributed to the auction. Consider saying thank you to any of the following organizations:

- Mate Factor/12 Tribes
- Food for the Planet
- Joe's Restaurant
- North Star
- Maxie's Supper Club
- Viva Taqueria
- Simeon's Bistro
- Cinemopolis
- Cat's Pajamas
- Mama Goose
- Hangar Theater
- Jillian's Drawers
- Museum of the Earth
- Sciencenter
- GreenStar
- Ludgates
- Purity Ice Cream
- Mimi's Attic
- Nancy Young (massage and craniosacral therapy)
- Julia E. Dean (potter)

— *Gina Varrichio*

What do you have for the meetinghouse?

Friends, have you been saving books, toys, furniture, or other items in case the day should come when we have our own Meetinghouse? It may be useful to take an accounting of these items before we move in. Knowing that we have some items (a refrigerator, tables, rugs) may save us from planning to buy those things new. In addition, if we learn that we have more couches than we need for First Day School use, we may be in a position of refusing some generous offers.

Friends are invited to contact Susan Wolf, 272-1618, quakerwolf@gmail.com, with a description of any items they are hoping to provide to our new home.

The Tardy Bench

A few years ago, Ministry and Worship (then Ministry and Oversight) initiated a practice of closing the doors to Meeting for Worship at Anabel Taylor at 11:05 and asking that latecomers wait until the children leave at 11:15 to enter worship. The purpose for doing this was to improve the quality of worship during the first 15 minutes. While one person entering or exiting the room doesn't usually disrupt worship, we found that when there is a constant stream of people entering the room during the first 15 minutes the meeting doesn't settle until later in the hour. This was of particular concern since most of the children only experience worship with the whole group during those first 15 minutes. We found that the restriction on entry during the first 15 minutes did help the worship settle earlier in the hour. Though messages (vocal ministry) are not the goal of settled worship, vocal ministry rarely occurs in an unsettled meeting and we saw an increase in messages given early in the hour.

We are also aware that several people find the practice of closing the doors at 11:05 unwelcoming. With some amusement, we note that the bench outside the Edwards Room has become known as "The Tardy Bench." We are searching for the best way to balance the need we feel for the room to settle deeply into worship, and the wish to make people feel welcome.

Last winter, Ministry and Worship began experimenting with having a few people arrive 15 to 20 minutes before the scheduled start of worship with the intent of beginning the worship and settling the room. This too seemed to have a positive effect on the quality of worship early in the hour. This experiment continued at Hector Meetinghouse, where we have not had the practice of restricting entry during the first 15 minutes. Ministry and Worship felt that the quality of worship there has often been good even with people entering late. In a recent exception, nobody began worship early and there were an extraordinary number of people entering late and the room didn't settle until 25 minutes into the hour. We appreciate the quote from Thomas Kelly:

"Some individuals need already, upon entering the meeting to be gathered deep in the spirit of worship. There must be some kindled hearts when the meeting begins. In them, and from them, begins the work of worship. The spiritual devotion of a few persons, silently deep in active adoration, is needed to kindle the rest, to help those others who enter the service with tangled, harried, distraught thoughts to be melted and quieted and released and made pliant, ready for the work of God and His Real Presence."

The question has particular relevance right now because we have learned that congregating in the narrow hall just outside the Edwards Room is causing some difficulty for other people in the building. Ministry and Worship agreed that we would no longer ask latecomers to wait in the hall. Ministry and Worship would like to build upon the success of having some people begin worship early and try some additional changes to see if we can both welcome those who arrive late as well as create a settled space for worship for the entire hour.

Midweek Meeting

For those that need spiritual reinforcement between our weekly Meetings for Worship, there is midweek Meeting at the Burr House every Wednesday evening, 7:15-9p in the library. The front door is left unlocked.

Come for whatever part of the time you are free, to reinforce the strength of your centered quiet, as well as that of the racing mind. The sense of duty is strong amongst Friends, and busying ourselves with all that we do, it is easy to forget the enrichment we need, to keep ourselves centered and listening.

Sitting in silence with each other provide us with the inspiration to know where and how to put our efforts. Sometimes someone says something that is just what we need to hear. Other times, the silence is complete and provides a break in our "rushing around" to get all those all those things done on some driven agenda.

Friends we need time and each other to strengthen our inner selves, to gain perspective and to listen for inspiration.

Meeting for Worship is more than a once a week commitment, it involves a state of being that reinforces our personal gifts from the divine.

Bless those that come; they reinforce not only themselves, but each other.

Creative silence is our gift.

— *Elspeth Rhodin*

For at least the month of October, we intend to stop the practice of restricting entry during the first 15 minutes. We invite anyone to arrive 15-20 minutes before the appointed start of worship to begin worship. If we happen to arrive before the Hospitality Committee has set up the room, we will set up a few chairs, begin worship and allow the rest of the room to be set up around us. We will shift the circle toward the end of the room away from the door so that those entering the Edwards Room are not entering any part of the circle. We will set up portable screens, loaned to us by one of the Jewish groups, to create a visual barrier between the circle of chairs and the door. We will experiment with ways that the end of the Edwards Room near the door, serves as a transition between the hallway and worship circle.

We invite comments on these practices. Ministry and Worship will meet October 21 when we will consider how to proceed.

— *Ministry and Worship:*
Barbara Ganzel, Carolyn Kenyon, Steve Mohlke,
Elspeth Rhodin, Tonia Saxon, Wendy Wolf

faction and the promise of nourishing a continuing growth in the life of the spirit.... Membership is a privilege and entails a corresponding responsibility. The individual should be prepared to give sacrificially of his resources of both time and money.... Only monthly meetings are empowered to admit and record individuals to membership in the Religious Society of Friends. (1974 p.71)

As my own journey in the Society has had its ups and downs, I'd like to present a chronology in which I'll highlight some of my thoughts on membership, that those who do not know me so well might find some context.

I came to Friends by accident shortly after I returned to Queens (NYC) in the autumn of 1979 having finished college, graduate school and 4 months of travel in Asia. My mom had moved during my freshman year from Far Rockaway to Flushing, and during my summers and school breaks I had attended at the Assemblies of G-d, not far from my new home. I had been awakened to G-d's grace and a personal relationship with Jesus in April of 1975 and at college attended a Presbyterian church. But Flushing is an interesting community with many historic sites, lovely parks and a bustling downtown of tremendous ethnic diversity. In those days I did not drive a car and often took long walks, just exploring and meditating. That was how I found the Assemblies of G-d and also the Hindu temple where I often stopped in to feel again some of my Asian experience. It is also how I found the Flushing Meeting with its fabulous grounds, cemetery and cedar shingled building dating to 1694. I often went there, and to the Bowne House, but it was not until I was permanently back home that as I sat in the yard noticing the soon to be ripe mulberries and folks began arriving for Meeting that I was first invited in. I accepted their invitation and was so moved by the honesty of the silence and the palpability of the Spirit that I continued to come there for worship.

After a reasonable amount of time, I requested membership. In my clearness process I presented the issue I anticipated might be a stumbling block and said I might need some support in that area – I

did not know exactly what that meant at the time, but I imagined it might become problematic: the fact that I was a “very out” Lesbian. You see, I knew that while much of my personal theology was in line with a more fundamentalist brand of Christianity, my homosexuality would ultimately not be tolerated here. Could Friends do better? Although none of us knew what that question might come to mean in the years ahead, the Meeting felt whatever challenges presented themselves, the Meeting could hold them, and find a way forward. Thus, I joined the Religious Society of Friends and stayed active at Flushing until I moved out of New York City in 1993.

By the time I moved to Dutchess County I had a partner and we were planning to reunite her with her two young adult children who had grown up in Malaysia. She had left Malaysia when they were quite young. Now they were readying for college and we determined that study in the United States was an offer we were prepared to make to both of them. Her son arrived in August 1994 and her daughter the next January. Thus, by my 37th birthday, I had what my brother called “instant family.” It was a huge change and I did not look for a Meeting in my new environment, although I never stopped feeling like a Quaker. As the children completed college and decided to stay in the U.S. my partner of 11 years came home one day and said “This is no fun anymore.” Within a week, she was gone from my life. I was lost. I had no anchor to steady me. That was when I decided to see what was going on at Powell House and attended the “Some of My Best F/friends are Jewish” weekend.

Funny isn't it, how what seems one small decision can turn out to be one of the most important leadings of a lifetime? I had never been to Powell House but I knew well of Cheshire Frager's deep love for the place, so it was there I turned in this dark season, not only finding her again, but two other Friends who have been tremendous influences in my life, Tom Goodridge of Morningside Meeting and Dorothy Carroll of Quaker Street. By that time I had sold my home and moved to the Albany area, so Dorothy's invitation to worship at Quaker Street was easy to accept. At Quaker Street I found many of the same qualities that had seemed so right at Flushing, and I inquired

about transferring my membership. Upon contacting Flushing and finding I had allowed my membership to slip away, it was decided I go through the clearness process a second time. Now, more mature in my understanding of Quakerism, this was a rich and gratifying experience and my years at Quaker Street provided me with the anchor I so desired.

Then, in 2002 I was offered a job in Syracuse which I took. Thinking then that I would be back in the capital district at some point, I was loathe to give up my attachment to Quaker Street. Time passed. I occasionally attended meeting in Syracuse, but never felt at ease there. I stayed in touch with Quaker Street, attended worship a few times a year, and supported the Meeting as I was financially able. I also went to Powell House as often as I had the resources and there was a topic of interest to me. In 2005 I moved to Minetto, NY and not long after, a Worship Group under the cover of Syracuse Meeting started on the SUNY Oswego campus. With its intimate space and small group of regular attenders, I felt at home again, but not enough so that I was willing to move my membership to Syracuse.

As these changes were taking place in my life, I also was moving forward in my personal life and late in 2001 Rev. Andrea Stoeckel and I had a Civil Union ceremony in Vermont. By 2005, what would ultimately be declared a permanent disability for Andrea, began showing symptoms. The next couple of years were tough ones for us. And all the while, G-d was at work. I needed a worship home that was robust, multi-generational, and not so far away as Quaker Street. I needed a meeting in which I could both grow and actively participate. I looked at Rochester and Ithaca. After not too many visits to Ithaca, I knew that was where I was being led. This time, my transfer of membership was smooth, mostly a matter of paperwork. I had proven myself to be a Quaker; it was not just something I felt was so.

But before that could happen, I spent at least a couple of years determining what I was called to do. I wondered if I could be a “member” at Powell House? I began reading about the meaning of membership and communicating my questions – the person

Membership, cont from page 6

who provided the clearest voice was Christopher Sammond. He reminded me that “Only monthly meetings are empowered to admit and record individuals to membership in the Religious Society of Friends.” (1974 p.71). To be a Quaker is to be a member of a monthly meeting.

Why is that? It is because membership in the monthly meeting (note that we are thus defined by our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business) is a practice that allows the essential meaning of Quakerism to find expression.

In his pamphlet published by Friends General Conference in 1995 entitled “Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting” Edward Hoare writes:

Quaker spirituality has always had a distinct emphasis, an emphasis upon personal experience of and as a result, personal trust in the Spirit (the Light, the Seed) rather than knowledge about its existence. Seventeenth-century Quakers were all Convinced Friends. Since there were no birthright Friends in the 1650s, what made them Quakers? It was a threefold process, the three Cs: conviction, conversion and convincement.... The primary mission of George Fox was to turn people to the Inward Light of Christ that speaks to the condition of each individual. He believed that the Light within was not automatically switched on, but that one becomes aware of it by Grace... By turning to the Light within we come to learn directly from the inward Teacher, which is the heart of Quaker theology.... Quaker spirituality is a corporate spirituality, for Friends maintain that it is not the case that each of us has a different Light within, but that it is one Light that is in us all. To be called into this power, to be convinced, is to be called into a powerful community.

And so, it is in looking to why we are named the Religious Society of Friends that I find my reason for membership in this Society, and that via membership in the Ithaca Monthly Meeting:

Jesus said: “This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves; for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appoint you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another.” John 15: 12-17 (New American Standard Bible).

— Rebecca Tanner

ARCH - Aging Resources Consultation and Help

Bronwyn Mohlke and Rebekah Tanner were among the 10 who attended a rich weekend of ARCH Visitor Training facilitated by ARCH co-coordinators Anita Paul (Schenectady) and Barbara Spring (Albany). The training took place September 10 - 12 at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center in Moravia, NY. Beginning with dinner on Friday evening, and continuing through lunch on Sunday, the time was filled with worship, shared meals, interactive sessions, and resource materials that are steeped in our Quaker testimonies and provide information on topics which impact all our lives.

The free training is designed to enable Friends to support seniors, families, and Meetings to meet the needs of our aging and disabled members and attenders, and their families. ARCH has a goal to eventually have a Visitor within an hour of everyone in NYYM. Volunteers do not need any specialized skills or experience; visitors are trained to listen effectively and to know of resources in their area. A typical visit to a senior might include hearing them out on whether they should move, helping them weigh their options, making sure they know of all the various senior housing options in their area, and what services are available to enable them to stay in their home, whom to call, and what the eligibility requirements are.

An ARCH Visitor is a Friend who has taken the ARCH Visitor training program because s/he has a call to visit seniors and adults with disabilities within one hour from home. Visitors maintain a close relationship to their Monthly and Regional Meetings, and stay in touch with the ARCH Coordinators who, in turn, work directly with the NYYM Committee on Aging Concerns.

A joint project of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the New York Yearly Meeting and funded through the Friends Foundation for the Aging; Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) offers older adults and persons with disabilities the information they need to enhance their quality of life. This is achieved through full use of Monthly Meeting and community resources. Education and insight is nurtured through workshops, printed material, website resources, ARCH Visitors, and advice from trained consultants. One-on-one listening is available for individuals and families as they deal with the last third of life.

If you are interested in having a visit from an ARCH visitor, contact Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu) or Rebekah Tanner (ratstar@foxgull.com).

Future ARCH training sessions are being planned and if you feel called to serve seniors and persons with disabilities, please consider attending. For additional information see the Web site of the New York Yearly Meeting <http://www.nyyym.org/index.php?q=aging> or call one of the coordinators: Anita Paul at 518-374-2166 or Barbara Spring at 518-772-2290.

Minutes of the August 8, 2010 Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Steve Mohlke, Clerk

Tonia Saxon, Assistant Clerk

Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerks

Mike Simkin, 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.)

201009.1 Gathering. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met for Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in the Hector meetinghouse, September 12, 2010. At 12:20 PM, 18 Friends gathered and settled into silence. Clerk extended our appreciation to Elspeth Rhodin and Ellie Rosenberg, who would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Using an illustration showing three mice looking at a wedge of cheese, and each seeing either a triangle, a rectangle, or a square, Clerk invited us to reflect on our corporate search for truth: each may offer a perspective which is partial, but true and necessary. Clerk reviewed the revised agenda of the day's business.

201009.2 Project Management Committee. Tonia Saxon brought the committee's report, which includes the final construction estimate from Latipac to renovate the Third Street building at a cost not to exceed \$349,108. After discussion and clarification, Friends APPROVED the proposal to proceed with signing the contract. It was stated again that funding projections include pledges not yet collected and the anticipated sale of the Rte. 79 land. Detailed copies of project proposals and costs are available online or from the PMC. @

201009.3 Trustees. Marilyn Ray, Clerk of Trustees, reported on work in progress on the sale of the Rte 79 property, development and fundraising, and placing a sign in the window of the Third Street building informing the public of its future use. Trustees proposed two Minutes for Meeting's approval.

A) Trustees advise that IMM apply for funds from the Friends' General Conference (FGC) Green Meetinghouse Fund in part to recover some of the extra costs we have incurred by choosing environmentally responsible practices and materials. The following Minute was proposed and APPROVED:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting approves the submission of an application to the FGC Green Meetinghouse Fund for a grant of \$10,000 to offset a small portion of the costs we will incur for the green renovations to our new Meetinghouse.

B) Trustees brought a proposal for a new Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, including a proposed charge:

The Third Street Meetinghouse provides Ithaca Monthly Meeting with space for worship, for the care and education of the children of the Meeting, and for gatherings and celebrations. As a visible signpost of the Meeting in Ithaca and of our ministry to the community, its condition and upkeep are of crucial importance.

The Third Street Meetinghouse Property Committee is responsible for:

1. Care of the building. Regular oversight of building systems, interior and exterior spaces, and parking lot area. Arranging for repairs. Coordination of regular tasks such as cleaning and service to internal systems. Occasional scheduling of Work Days for larger tasks. Prompt submission of invoices to Treasurer.

2. Scheduling of use of the building by groups within the Meeting and from the community. Maintenance of building calendar. Coordination with representatives of outside groups.
3. Coordination with the Children's Garden Committee and organization of upkeep of the grounds.
4. Coordination with Trustees on issues affecting the property value, legal or tax status of the building.

The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee meets once a month, or when circumstances require. It shall consist of four members to be appointed by the Nominating Committee, subject to change according to workload demand. The creation of the committee and the charge were APPROVED.@

201009.4 Ministry and Worship. Tonia Saxon presented three matters for the committee. A) M&W recommended, and Meeting APPROVED, the following people to serve on the Clearness Committee for membership requested by Anneliese Truame: Garry Thomas, Marin Clarkberg, and Barbara Ganzel (convener). B) M&W recommended, and Meeting APPROVED, the following people to serve on the Clearness Committee for membership requested by Lynn Truame: Rebekah Tanner, Fell Cadwallader, and Carolyn Kenyon (convener). C) Melissa Mueller requested transfer of her membership into IMM from Concord (PA) MM, and we have received a letter from Concord's Clerk recommending her to our care. Ithaca Friends happily receives Melissa (now Melissa Blake) into membership. @

201009.5 Finance Committee. Dick Crepeau presented the report. A) For their planning, New York Yearly Meeting requests that each MM send them in September an estimate of our contribution to NYYM's annual budget. Friends APPROVED stating that our contribution will be as much as last year's, \$14,000. B) Finance Committee has looked into ways to manage cash flow if gaps occur while anticipated funds are collected over the next three years. Some Friends have already offered to make short-term low-interest loans to IMM in amounts which would be sufficient to cover foreseeable gaps. Finance Committee invited input on this practice. Friends' comments included: concerns for simplicity of administration of such loans, ethical considerations of paying and receiving interest, equal opportunities for individuals to contribute, and implications for relationships within the community. A felt need for a Minute arose from the floor, and the following was APPROVED:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting authorizes the Finance Committee to accept offers of low-interest short-term loans from Friends over the next three years, with the understanding that this may have unforeseen implications for our relationships.

Finance Committee received Friends' comments and will take them into consideration as they develop and season plans for fundraising. All Friends are invited to share their thoughts with the committee. @

201009.6 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin brought the monthly report and highlighted some details for us. Friends received the report. @

Fifteen Friends settled into worship at 2:45 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall on October 10, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the

strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.

Query 14. Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

October 2010 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Please also see the on-line calendar at <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

Welcome Back to First Day School & Anabel Taylor Hall

Sunday, October 3, 10:30a

Back at Anabel Taylor Hall, join together in celebration and welcoming of our children.

Social Justice Committee

Sunday, October 3, Rise of Meeting

We will gather in the cafe. All are welcome.

Floating Meeting & Apple Picking Sunday, October 3, Rise of Meeting

Friends are welcome to join us at 78 Genung Circle after Meeting for Worship. We'll pick apples, press a little cider and share lunch together. Our apple crop this year is a little smaller than we'd hoped: the frost hit us fairly hard here on the hill. What we have tastes good even if it doesn't necessarily "look" great.

If you need directions, please call us at 272-4526 or email liam.murphy@clarityconnect.com.

In the nature of Floating Meeting, we want to invite friends regardless of age. We often have young Friends who can climb the trees to get apples for older Friends ... there's no good reason to pass up the chance for great inter-generational food and fun, particularly if the weather cooperates!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, October 10, Rise of Meeting

Agenda items should be provided to Steve Mohlke, clerk, by the preceding Wednesday. (Contact information is on page 1.)

Every Sunday

- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages
- 11:15a Children and adults participating in First Day School gather outside the Edwards Rooms

Women's Fellowship Friday, October 15, 7p

Please join us at 7pm at the Ithaca Bakery, 400 N. Meadow Street. All are welcome. Have dinner or tea or baked goods... or not.

Quaker Basics

Sunday, October 17, Rise of Meeting

Please join us after meeting in the cafe for Quaker Basics, an informal forum for learning for about Quakerism. The first program in the series will be a discussion led by Tony Serviente on *Leading a Quaker Life*. Bring your lunch if you would like and join us for this program.

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, October 23, 10:30a

Peace Witness Committee will be meeting at the Burt House. All are welcome.

Burt House Work Day Saturday, October 30th, noon-2p

All are invited to a work day at the Burt House Friends Center, 227 Willard Way. We will be joined by Cornell students from their annual Into the Streets program. It would be nice to have F(f)riends to chat with and work alongside them. The primary focus will be outdoor work- leaf raking and yard clean-up. Come by for 1/2 and hour or stay from 12-2! Delicious refreshments will be served. For more information, call or email, Mary Balfour, Friend-in-Residence, at 342-6657 or mbalfour123@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Greta Mickey

On December 5 at the rise of Meeting, Greta Mickey, New York Yearly Meeting Peace Concerns Coordinator, will be speaking in the Cafe, sponsored by the Peace Witness, Social Justice, and Earth Care Committees. Watch for further details.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts