



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2011

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

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Treasurer:

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Ministry & Worship:

Marin Clarkberg
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Pastoral Care:

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Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

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

Scheduling:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting and/or to reserve a room at the meeting-house, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

September is a time of New Beginnings

First Day School

Friends welcome the return of First Day School on September 18. More details will follow on the meeting listserv. (See right for instructions to join the listserv).

Quakerism 101

This discussion series for both newcomers and for long-time Friends is described in more depth on page 2 and begins Sept. 18.

Friends Free Bike Clinic

Larry Clarkberg will be hosting a bike clinic at the meetinghouse on fourth Sundays beginning September 25th. See page 4 for more information.

Progress on Meetinghouse Construction Projects Continues

Despite the lack of outward evidence, Third Street Meeting House Committee (TSMC) has been steadily working away on the "Phase II" construction projects. We are pleased to provide you with this update:

- **Parking lot fence:** We will sign a contract shortly for its repair/replacement. The work will be complete before the snow flies this year.
- **Second floor flooring:** The materials have been ordered and we have a contract for their installation. TSMC has worked closely with CALM on selecting the appropriate products and colors for the various spaces. We will have Interface carpet tiles with attached backing (for sound) in the east common area and classrooms (the spaces over the Meeting Room), and sheet marmoleum with an integral sound abatement layer in the west common area and classroom. We anticipate installation sometime in early October.

Pancakes on Sunday morning

Ministry & Worship has observed that the sense of being gathered can be enhanced by spending time with one another in fellowship. As an experiment, Ministry & Worship is hosting Sunday pancake breakfasts before Meeting for Worship. M&W will supply pancakes (gluten free too!), coffee and tea. Your contributions are welcome, but not necessary.

Please consider joining us at 9am on September 11th, 18th, and 25th. (Yes, breakfast overlaps with Quakerism 101 on the 18th and 25th. Oh, the options!)

- **Exterior painting:** Based on input received from the Meeting, TSMC has made a final color selection. The body of the building will be "Butte Rock" and the trim will be "Adobe Beige". We have also selected a dark brown color ("Horse Brown") for auxiliary items such as stairs and handrails, and the lattice and gates (which we will be painting ourselves at some point in the future).
- **Library bookshelves:** Wendy Wolfe's husband, Wash, has started work on the shelves at his home workshop. Wash has also installed a lovely cherry wood name tag holder for the entry lobby.
- **Reducing echo in the Meeting Room:** An order has been placed for Tectum panels. Once they have been received, we will schedule a work party for their installation (some carpentry skills required).

"Progress on Meetinghouse", cont. on p.2

“Progress on Meetinghouse”, cont. from page 1

- **Interior paint:** Working with the Hospitality Committee, the Library Committee and Ministry & Worship, TSMC has selected interior colors for most of the first floor. We are still working on finding a good shade of white for the Meeting Room. Painting of the rest of the first floor interior can begin whenever a group or individual comes forward to lead the effort. Please contact TSMC if this could be you! Colors on the second floor will be chosen by the First Day Schoolers, in consultation with CALM.
- **Awnings:** We recently applied “Wet and Forget” awning cleaner to the awnings. The packaging says that final results may not be apparent for 6-12 months... so we will have to wait and see how well this worked before knowing if further efforts are required.

Spiritual Preparation for Meeting for Worship

Ministry and Worship invite you to join in the preparation for Meeting for Worship by arriving in the meetingroom 15 or 20 minutes early to begin silent worship. Thomas Kelly wrote:

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.

If you have questions, you may contact me at 273-7922 or clkenyon09@gmail.com The discipline of arriving early has enriched the hour of worship for me. There are times when I am unable to quiet my mind, or noise distracts me. At other times, I am surprised and filled with joy by a quickening Presence enfolding us.

— Carolyn Kenyon

Holding our Business Meetings in the Light : A Way You Can Help our Meeting

You can make a significant contribution to the Ithaca Monthly Meeting that requires no money and very little time – only two hours two or three times a year. We have an established practice of having two people present at each Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (2nd Sunday of each month) who have only one purpose, being a centered presence, holding Friends in the Light in order to better ground the group in the Spirit.” The intent is to increase the spiritual depth of our Meetings for Business.

What does somebody engaging in this practice actually do?

A brochure from Adirondack Friends Meeting describes it this way: “Specifically, folks who (engage in this practice) are holding and grounding our worship in the Light and Love of God, praying for (holding in the Light) whoever is leading worship, and responding to nudges to pray for the faces they see as they look out on those gathered in meeting. There are no particular set of qualifying requirements. Mainly, you just need to be willing to be used by God to immerse our meeting time in the Spirit.”

Quakerism 101

Quakerism 101 is a six-week guided discussion based on materials developed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Designed both to familiarize new members and attenders with the faith and practice of Friends and to strengthen the understanding of long-time members, there is certain to be something of interest to all in the curriculum. Quakerism 101 is an intellectually stimulating course in which specific information about Quakerism is shared, as well as a forum for individual and corporate spiritual growth.

Together we will explore such questions as:

- What do we mean by the Light Within?
- How does the Light Within differ from the conscience?
- What does it mean to answer that of God in everyone?
- Despite intense persecution, the early Quaker movement grew rapidly. What attracted so many people? Are there implications in this for Friends today?
- What is Quaker conviction?
- What is the distinction between Quaker conviction and evangelical conversion?
- What is meant by Quaker Universalism?
- What might facilitate our opening to the Light during Meeting for Worship?
- What do we mean by a gathered Meeting? What can we do to promote a gathered Meeting?
- How does a concern arise?
- How do Friends move from a concern to action?
- How does the conduct of Quaker business differ from the conduct of business in a non-Quaker context?
- How do we use discernment in Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business?

Quakerism 101 consists of six classes. Beginning September 18, the classes will meet weekly on Sundays from 8:30 to 10:00 AM at the 3rd Street Meetinghouse. Tonia Saxon, Lynn Truame, and Carolyn Kenyon will teach the course with Tony Gaenslen giving the presentation on Early Friends. The schedule is:

September 18 – The Light Within

September 25 – Seekers and Finders: The Experience of Early Friends

October 2 – Quaker Universalism

October 9 – Worship and Ministry

October 16 – Living in the Light: Quaker Witness

October 23 – Getting Down to Business

Friends who may want to participate are not required to attend all sessions. However we need to know if you think you might attend one or more of the sessions in order to have enough reading materials available. Reading assignments will be given before each unit. If you are interested in attending one or all of the Quakerism 101 sessions, please sign the registration sheet at the 3rd Street Meetinghouse or contact Carolyn Kenyon at clkenyon09@gmail.com or call 273-7922. Power Quakers and all teens are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided.

September in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a rich history that now exceeds 80 years. Now that the minutes of prior business meetings have been obtained, digitized, and summarized, I would like to begin to share more of this history with the Meeting. Each month I will attempt to submit a column for the newsletter that highlights that month in IMM's history.

— Tom Brown, Meeting historian

10 Years Ago

Children and the Life of the Meeting reported plans for about 38 children in First Day School. Plans included a retreat for teachers and a welcoming of the children at our first October Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall. (Minutes of September 2001)

A called meeting was held on 9/16 to reflect on the recent terrorism attacks of 9/11/01. IMM sent a letter to local newspapers condemning the acts of terrorism but advocating that terrorists be brought to justice through international courts of law rather than through military action. The letter also voiced concern over the treatment of people of different beliefs, styles of dress, and skin color within the U.S. It also advocated that we seriously examine the history and actions of the U.S. that have contributed to strong hatred toward our country.

30 Years Ago

The Trustees and Clerk received a letter from Ned and Marjorie Burt indicating the bequeath of their home to IMM. It was their hope that their home would be used as a Friends Center, as a harbor for peace, renewal, and refreshment. They would like their home to continue their caring and love for the Meeting. They would like their property to strengthen the work of the Meeting. (Minutes of September 1981)

45 Years Ago

NYYM's message to Friends on Vietnam was read. The US Government was pressuring its employees to buy savings bonds in support of the war. Medical supplies were being shipped to both North and South Vietnam by the Canadian Service Committee. Financial participation was still possible, with a shipment scheduled for next month. However, participation was a federal offense.

Ed Cranch pointed out that the Vietnam War is giving rise to a new form of conscientious objector—one opposed to this particular war, not necessarily to all wars. He asked that IMM support the Faculty Committee on Vietnam, which appears to be the most effective protest group in our community. IMM donated \$100 from its savings account and left open the possibility of an additional donation later. (Minutes of September 1966)

65 Years Ago

The clerk read a letter from a teacher in Norway and a child in France, both of whom had been helped through Save the Children Federation that Meeting contributed to (for European relief following World War II). (Minutes of September 1946)

Powell House Scholarships Available

Our Meeting is enhanced when we participate in both our local Meeting and in wider Quaker events. Our Meeting is enhanced when each of us take steps to deepen our spiritual journey. Sometimes the Meeting's Scholarship Sub-Committee (of Ministry and Worship) notices an event that seems like it would be of particular benefit to have someone or two or more from our Meeting attend. Such is the case with the upcoming Powell House weekend, *Habits of the Soul* (see below). The scholarship sub-committee is offering two \$100 grants to people who would like to attend. If this would be your first Powell House conference you can claim Ithaca Meeting's First Timer grant which combines with Powell House's First Timer Scholarship to make the event free to you. If you don't qualify for the First Timer grant and need more than \$100 you can request that, too. If interested, please contact Barbara Ganzel at 607-275-9512 or blg4@cornell.edu.

Come Home to ...

Powell House



Operating under the care of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Upcoming Powell House Workshops

More more information, please visit: www.powellhouse.org.

For Adults, September 16-18:

Habits of the Soul:

Disciplines that Open Our Hearts to the Divine

In this weekend retreat, we will explore spiritual disciplines and their place in our lives individually and communally. We will look at the habits within which we dwell and whether they are life-giving. Let us see how our heart's desire matches with what God is asking of us. With Mary Kay Glazer and Angi Crane.

For 8th-12th graders, September 16-18:

Planning Youth 2011

This is our annual look at us as a community. Come ready to share your ideas and thoughts as we map where we're going in the coming year. First time attenders and new ideas are welcome too!

For 4th-5th graders, September 23-25:

Picking Party

Apples, wild grapes, walnuts. We'll harvest the fruits of the grounds. We'll also share about how we pick what's right for us from friends to free time activities and beyond.

Join "Healing Ithaca" at our Meetinghouse

On Tuesday October 4, *Healing Ithaca* will meet in our meetinghouse, from 5:15 to 5:45pm. It will be a short Meeting for Worship with attention to healing the pain and seeking a way forward in the Ithaca community. All Friends are asked to welcome our neighbors and join in this effort.

In February 2010 at Pete's convenience/liquor store Shawn Greenwood, a young black Ithacan, was shot to death by Bryan Bangs, a young white Ithaca Police officer. In July 2010 Bryan Bangs was exonerated of any use of excessive force, and that night the Bangs home was set on fire. A call went out from and to religious leaders to come together in prayer for our community, and dozens of people have continued to meet monthly over the last year, in a group called Healing Ithaca. The gatherings have taken place at different places of worship each month.

Though a year has passed since the arson, it remains an unsolved crime. A group called the Truth and Reconciliation Committee has examined the findings of the independent investigation into the events surrounding Shawn Greenwood's death, and in public meetings has called into question the investigator's conclusions which exonerated Bryan Bangs. The issue simmers in our community. There is no resolution, no peace. I believe that Friends have more than the hospitality of our meeting space to offer, and hope that many of you will come and contribute to this call to the Spirit to guide us.

— Nancy Gabriel

Earthcare Meetings Open to All

IMM's Earthcare Committee is resuming their regular meetings, open to all interested people, at the rise of meeting on third Sundays of each month, starting September 18. Anyone with an interest in Earthcare is welcome to attend.

Please feel free to join us as we discuss how we want to evolve as a committee during a time of extreme extraction (from fracking to tar sands oil). Petro-fuels are changing global climates and petrochemicals are invading our ecosystems and our bodies. Within our Meeting, we have many inspiring examples of ways of living with less petro-products. Earthcare's goal is to help support and spread these more ecological and joyful ways of living.

Here is an excerpt from our charge:

The Committee will build on the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship (SPICES), among other sources, to inspire and inform our work and outreach on Earthcare. The Committee will promote and facilitate mindfulness with f/Friends regarding actions we can take personally, as committees within IMM, as a Meeting, and as part of the wider community. The Earthcare Committee will also work with wider Quaker bodies and other public and private organizations to address Earthcare and eco-justice concerns locally, regionally, and nationally. The Committee will make recommendations to the Meeting for budget allocations to local, national, and international Quaker and other environmental and eco-justice organizations.

— Margaret McCasland

Porchfest at the Third Street Meetinghouse

Come celebrate Porchfest on Sunday September 25 from 1:00-5:30! We will be hosting performers, and a portion of our meetinghouse will also be open for restroom use during the festival.

On our back deck: Voices, The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, and the Ithaca Gay Mens' Chorus will be performing

In the courtyard: Ithaca Storytellers (with our own Lee Ellen Marvin), a sing-along led by Susan Wolfe, and Wash Wawrzynek's fiddle band will be performing.

We can use volunteers to help with logistics and would encourage any interested F/friends to organize a bake sale.

For more information and to volunteer contact Wendy Wolfe or Melody Johnson.

Friends Free Bike Clinic

There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end.

— James Naylor's deathbed testimony

I've been a bicyclist since I was a kid. As a middle-schooler I delivered newspapers from my bike. As a teenager I worked as a bike courier in Washington D.C. As a college student I biked from Portland to San Francisco on a three-week journey with my future wife. For me, bicycling is simply the most enjoyable way to travel.

Bicycling is also a way for me to care for the earth and to improve my community. In the last couple of years I've experimented with what the mainstream media calls a "car lite" lifestyle. I drive a large electrically-motorized bicycle that can easily carry a passenger and four bags of groceries up the steepest hills in Ithaca. In a typical month I put more miles on this bicycle than I do in the family car. I bike in all weather and in all seasons, and I sometimes make trips that are hundreds of miles long. I've proven to myself that it is possible to almost completely (and comfortably) replace our car with a bicycle.

I have a sense that others would like to bike more but don't know how to get started. I'd like to share my experiences and learn about theirs. I'm setting up a project with Ithaca Monthly Meeting's Earthcare Committee that I call the "Friends Free Bike Clinic". Basically I will set up my tools on the meetinghouse deck and invite anyone to come by. We can work on our bikes together and share our knowledge about biking. Repairs can be as simple as a quick tune-up: cleaning a chain, pumping up tires, and adjusting brakes. (These little things can make a big difference in the ease and safety of biking!) Or repairs could be more involved: ordering and installing parts or even ordering whole bikes. I can also help people add electric motors to their bikes. I feel that an electric motor is a necessity for utility biking in Ithaca.

I plan to hold the bike clinic on fourth Sundays from 1pm to 3pm beginning September 25th (which also happens to be Porchfest). I invite complete novices as well as mechanically-minded people to join me.

— Larry Clarkberg

Growing in the Spirit Together (GrIST): New Groups Forming

In September we'll form another round of Growing in the Spirit Together groups. This is an opportunity for small groups to meet together regularly for committed spiritual exploration. The first round of GrIST groups met in the spring of 2011, and many found it to be very rewarding experience.

Like last time, people may be asked whether they want to meet every week, every second week, or every third week. If participants wish, there may also be an opportunity to form groups around a particular interest. We won't put spouses or partners in the same group unless they specify that they would like to be together.

The groups will begin meeting in September/October and will meet through December/January. The first time a group meets, the members will schedule the rest of the dates. Attendance should be taken seriously; if possible, notice should be given if a meeting has to be missed, and a member who misses a meeting should make meaningful contact with at least one other group member before the following meeting.

Material has been prepared and is available for the use of groups, but groups can also use any format that feels comfortable for the members—with one caveat. If left unchecked, groups tend to drift toward ordinary conversation, which is often more comfortable than the kind of spiritual sharing we hope these groups will nurture. To help with this, each group will be assigned a facilitator who will take primary responsibility for helping the group decide on a direction and to stay true to its intent. Care will be taken to avoid the common pitfalls of group dynamics: domination of a group by a single individual, the offering of advice, over-thinking, and so on.

If you are interested in being part of a GrIST group this fall, please contact Steve Mohlke at smohlke@gmail.com. More information will be posted to the listserv as soon as we have it.

Huge Medicaid Rally in DC on September 21

Congress is proposing devastating cuts to the safety net programs that seniors and people with disabilities rely on to live independent, healthy lives at home and avoid more costly nursing facilities. On September 21, New York advocates will join thousands of advocates from around the country to tell Washington to enact *real* Medicaid reform that not only contains costs but protects the civil rights of seniors and people with disabilities.

Busses are leaving from Rochester and Binghamton. Travel cost is \$50 per person. Contact Dave Atias at datias@cdrnys.org for the Rochester bus or Sue Ruff at advocate@stic-cil.org for the Binghamton bus. If you want to go, but can't afford the cost, please contact Sue.

If you cannot go to DC, you can sponsor an advocate to go to the rally by making a donation! Tax-deductible checks may be made out to the Southern Tier Independence Center and mailed to STIC/attn: Sue Ruff/135 East Frederick St./Binghamton, New York 13904

Comfort in the Meetingroom

The Ministry & Worship committee welcomes your feedback on issues relating to the quality of Meeting for Worship. This includes factors relating to meetingroom itself, such as noise, temperature, and so forth. Based on the feedback we have received this far, Ministry & Worship has adopted the following practices:

- Windows facing Third Street should remain *closed* during worship due to the street noise. The windows on the north and south sides of the room may be opened if appropriate.
- The lights in the meetingroom should be *on* so that Friends—especially those with impaired vision—may better see one another.

Friends should also note that members of our Ministry & Worship committee are taking responsibility for “care of worship.” On a rotating basis, one person will be especially attentive to the conditions in the meetingroom.

There is a list of who is responsible for “care of worship” on the writing desk just outside the meetingroom. Friends who have concerns about the conditions of the meetingroom during worship are encouraged to contact this listed individual or another member of M&W.

— *Ministry & Worship members:*

Steve Mohlke, Tonia Saxon, Marin Clarkberg, Carolyn Kenyon, Chuck Mohler, Wendy Wolfe, and Barbara Ganzel

NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary in Ithaca

Gabi Savory Bailey is the recently appointed Young Adult Field Secretary for New York Yearly Meeting—the New York state area Quaker organization. Her role is to help nourish Quakerism and Quaker community among those aged 18 to 30 (more or less).

As part of her role, Gabi will be visiting Ithaca. Lenora Schneller is working on working on plans for a dinner with Gabi and our Young Friends group on Thursday, Sept. 15. More details will follow on the listserv, but you are interested in helping, please contact Lenora, 607-272-3788, ls258@cornell.edu.

Join a Meetinghouse Work Party October 15th

Save the date! The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee is organizing several work parties for Saturday October 15th from 10am to 2pm (with rain date October 22nd). Soup and pizza will be provided, with perhaps other festivities to be determined. Jobs may include:

- installing ceiling tiles in the meeting room;
- demolition (and possibly rebuilding) the courtyard storage structure (the overhang that covers the outdoor tables);
- painting gates and outside stairs;
- leaf raking, bulb planting, and other grounds maintenance

To handle each of these tasks we are organizing ourselves into small groups led by group leaders. Some tasks require light carpentry skills, so please sign up if you have such skills. Reserve your spot now by contacting Larry Clarkberg, larry@knowledgetown.com, 277-9364.

September 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

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

Social Justice Committee Sunday, September 4, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to join in this meeting in the Library of the Meetinghouse.

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, September 11, 18 & 25, 9am

Ministry & Worship will be hosting a pancake breakfast before Meeting for Worship. Please join us. Contributions to breakfast (food or monetary) are welcome but not necessary.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 11, 12p

Agenda items should get to our clerk, Steve Mohlke, on or before the preceding Wednesday.

Women's Fellowship Friday, September 15, 7p

Back by popular demand after a brief summer vacation: a time to eat, drink, and/or be merry with Friends. Join us at the Ithaca Bakery at 7pm.

Quakerism 101 Sunday, September 18 & 25, 8:30am

See page 2 for more details.

Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse

The option of sharing worship at Hector Meetinghouse at 10:30a on Sundays will continue through September.

Welcome Back to First Day School Sunday, September 18, 9:30am

All are invited to join in this meeting in the Library of the Meetinghouse.

Earthcare Committee Sunday, September 18, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to join in this meeting in the Library of the Meetinghouse.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, September 22, 5p

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

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, September 24, 10:30a

All are invited to join at the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way.

Friends Free Bike Clinic Sunday, September 25, 1-3p

Bring your bike to the meetinghouse for a tune-up. See page 4 for more details.

Porchfest Sunday, September 25, 1-5p

This is really fun. See page 4 for more details.

Save the Date: Floating Meeting, Friday October 7, 5:30 p.m.

Come celebrate autumn with good Friends, good eats, and (weather permitting) a stroll along the South Hill Recreation way. Dish-to-pass-dinner at the Beissner/Kaiser home, 107 Crescent Place.

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at *both* the Third Street Meetinghouse and at Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:45a Friends participating in First Day School gather outside the meeting room. Please be mindful of the sounds.

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
- Thurs 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse