



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2012

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

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

Treasurer:

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

Ministry & Worship:

Marin Clarkberg
607-279-4722 • clarkberg@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

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 meetinghouse, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Movie Series and Discussion on Race

Did you know that race is a social construct? If you want to become more aware of racism as it effects us today, join us at the Third Street meetinghouse for a three-part movie series, *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, to be shown Monday nights, July 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 to 7:30pm with discussion following. For more information, contact Sue Baker-Carr (sbaker-carr@twcnyc.rr.com) or Carolyn Kenyon (clkenyon09@gmail.com).

Race: The Power of an Illusion

The division of people into distinct categories—"white," "black," "yellow," "red" peoples—has become so widely accepted and so deeply rooted in our psyches, that most people would not think to question its veracity. This three hour documentary tackles the theory of race by subverting the idea of race as biology, tracing the idea back to its origin.

Chapter One: The Difference Between Us examines the contemporary science that challenges our common sense assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to their physical traits.

Chapter Two: The Story We Tell uncovers the roots of the race concept in North America, the 19th century science that legitimated it, and how it came to be held so fiercely in the western imagination. The episode is an eye-opening tale of how race served to rationalize, even justify, American social inequalities as "natural."

Chapter Three: The House We Live In asks: If race is not biology, what is it? This episode uncovers how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status and wealth to white people.

Hearing Loss In Our Meeting

Editor's Note: Not all messages spoken during Meeting for Worship are clearly heard by everyone present. Some Friends have better hearing than others. In this series of articles, Susan Wolf describes how the inability to hear well affects her interaction with others.

I have a hearing loss that has become significant over time. This affects my social life and impacts how I can participate in conversation and in group settings. I thought it would be helpful to provide some insights on four areas. Last month I talked about what it feels like to have a hearing loss. This month I'll cover what issues make communication difficult. I will be speaking from my own perspectives, but from a professional lifetime of working with deaf and hard of hearing people, I know that my perspectives are shared by many.

Part 2: What makes hearing difficult?

How well I can hear depends greatly on the situation. One-on-one conversation is the easiest. Communication in a group setting becomes more difficult, and in a crowded room or a setting with a lot of ambient noise (like a restaurant) it becomes a real challenge.

See "Hearing Loss" on page 2

"Hearing Loss," continued from page 1

Apart from the situation, there are other challenges, such as ambient noise (lawn mowers outside, clinking cutlery, fans, etc). The acoustics and size of a place play a big part. A large, echoing gym is harder to hear in than a smaller room with good sound abatement. A larger room, even one with good acoustics, means I will be farther from the speaker, and this poses a problem.

Lighting is important. Light must be bright enough to provide a good view. Dim, romantic (or restful) lighting means I can't see the person I'm listening to very well, and this stymies any lipreading I need to do. If someone sits in front of a bright window, that person becomes a silhouette, and I can't see that person's face at all. If the lights in a room are too bright, my eyes will tire easily and my ability to focus on the speaker's face will wane.

Being able to see the speaker is essential. If the speaker is behind an obstacle or if someone in front of me blocks my view, I'll miss much of what is said. When someone speaks from somewhere behind me, chances are I'll miss that too. Often, if a person starts talking to me without getting my attention first, I won't know

they're talking to me. If the speaker is at some distance (say at the front of a large room or on a stage), I won't be able to get lipreading clues unless I sit up front.

Now we get to the critical piece: the ways people communicate. Each of us develops speech habits and patterns throughout our lives. The longevity of those habits makes them difficult to change, even when we want to change them. Some people speak slowly, others speak rapidly. Some people enunciate clearly, some mumble. Some speak loudly, some softly. Some move their lips in clear patterns, while some have what we call "novocaine lips." For a person with a hearing loss, the person who speaks slowly, clearly, loudly enough to be heard, and who uses clear mouth movements will be the easiest to understand.

Most hard of hearing and deaf people lose hearing in the higher frequencies, so lower voices tend to be easier to hear than higher ones. Children's voices can be almost impossible to decipher: their voices are light and high and they usually speak quickly.

Things that get in the way of the lips or face block communication: pens, fingers, hands, hoods, mustaches (and anything else) can put an end to lipreading. Many people have incorporated hands into their speaking styles, and customarily put a finger on their lips, speak behind their hands, stroke their beards or mustaches, or even chew on pens while speaking.

Accents can throw an additional wrench in the works. An unfamiliar accent changes not only the way the person sounds, but also the way that person's lips form the spoken words. These two changes make listening to someone with an accent (and lipreading them) quite a challenge.

Communication can be affected by the situation, too. If you are at a party, you will readily speak louder to be heard. If you are in a spiritual setting, you may find yourself speaking softly and "reverently" to be in keeping with that setting. This is not helpful to the hard of hearing person struggling to hear what you have to say. Think of the preacher before a congregation and speak forth!

I have presented the issues that affect listening and hearing. The next article will present some ways we can address these issues.

Save the Date: Porchfest, Sunday Sept. 16

We are planning to host musicians again (both on the deck and in the courtyard), be a restroom stop, and have a bake sale at this year's Porchfest, Sunday Sept. 16. We need a volunteer or two to coordinate the bake sale, especially having children and others walk around to other musical events selling our treats, as well as volunteers to greet visitors/monitor restrooms, bring treats to sell (healthy items sold well last year as well as the usual baked goods), and bring and set up some shade canopies. To volunteer, or if you are interested in performing, please contact me at ww16@cornell.edu.

— Wendy Wolfe

What Are You Reading?

Please share your selections with Lynn Truame

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking

by Susan Cain

For about 20 years I've known that I am an introvert and understood that to mean that many social situations, while possibly quite fun and delightful, drain my energy.

I didn't expect to learn much more but the book came highly recommended so I started. Indeed I didn't learn much about myself in the first chapter or so, but it has been enlightening ever since. Since I've learned many extroverted skills, I found the chapter on when to behave like an extrovert and the dangers of doing too much of it particularly fascinating. The author gives some history of how extroversion became our cultural ideal and perspective from cultures that don't share the ideal.

At times she simplifies things such as "extroverts simply prefer a higher level of stimulation than introverts" while at other times she gives complex explanations such as differences in how we process brain chemicals and blaming the 2008 financial meltdown on an excess of extroverts in the decision-making positions.

Throughout, I've thought about how the various topics relate back to one of my favorite topics: how groups of Quakers make decisions together. The book has been a great resource for understanding myself and everyone else.

— Steve Mohlke

2012 Ithaca Monthly Meeting Directory

Friends, there is an updated version of the Meeting directory available at the Third Street Meetinghouse, or you may get in touch with me to request a copy (contact information below). The following are updates to the new directory. If you know of other additions or corrections to be made, please send them to me. Thank you!

— Bronwyn Mohlke
bjm9@cornell.edu, 277-4183

Updates to the Directory

Friends may wish to insert these changes into their own copy:

Ernest Blake's cell phone number is 327-2026

+ Jim Baines / #4 Sherwood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 269-0145

+ Phoebe Brown / 520 Alice Miller Way, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (607) 319-0028

Fell Cadwallader's email address is now creativeconsonance@gmail.com

Addition to the Chen family! Tobias Ming Chen was born on June 5, 2012

Christopher Church's new address and phone number are 107 1/2 Fourth Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / (607) 592-4274

Tony Gaenslen's email address is now tony.gaenslen@gmail.com

+ Shannon Isaacs / (513) 910-9918 / shanisaacs@gmail.com / 5506 HR #5, Ithaca, NY 14853

Will Parker's phone number is 272-2836

+ Marie Rhoades & Eric Benner / 4895 Williamee Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886 / 387-3509 / Marie: marshorty@aol.com / Eric: esbenner@gmail.com

+ Gary and Maude Rith / 540 Main Street, P.O. Box 429, Etna, NY 13062 / 347-6444 / garyrith@yahoo.com.

July in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

15 Years Ago (July 14, 1997)

Melody Johnson agreed to be the IMM representative on the Oversight Committee for the wedding of Caitlin Kennedy and Jamie Loehr on July 27.

60 Years Ago (July 7, 1952)

The Business Meeting had become sufficiently contentious, apparently over several topics, that a Nominating Committee for FY 1952-53 had been unable to complete its work. Ned Burt suggested that IMM turn to a trustworthy and neutral person on the

See "July in IMM history," page 4

Managing Giving to IMM through Electronic Transfers

Meeting Treasurer Mike Simkin has set up a way for you to make donations to Meeting easily and regularly using electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Meeting's. To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form below and return it to the Treasurer: Mike Simkin, 3137 Jacksonville Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account. If you have any question feel free to email or call Mike Simkin at mes13@cornell.edu or 607-387-5174.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Inc.

Your name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email address:

I would like to make the following contribution(s):

- General Operating Fund \$ _____
- Building Fund \$ _____
- Kitchen Cupboard _____ \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____
- Other _____ \$ _____

Total

Date of first contribution: ___/___/___

Frequency of contribution (check one):

- Weekly – Mondays
- Bi-Weekly (every other week)
- Semi-monthly – 1st and 15th
- Monthly on the 1st
- Monthly on the 15th

CHECKING / SAVINGS

Complete this section if using your checking or savings account

Please debit my (check one):

- Checking account—attach voided check Savings account—attach voided deposit slip

Routing #:

Account #:

Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3

I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized signature: _____ Date: / /

topics of disagreement, and that Edith Cope was such a person. Ned recommended that each IMM member contact Edith and personally discuss his/her concerns, and that Edith synthesize and distill these concerns and possible solutions and report back to a Called Meeting on July 7. This procedure was agreed to. The following is a summary of Edith Cope's report back to IMM on July 7.

Edith indicated she felt very encouraged by the very real desire on the part of everyone she spoke with to do all they could toward bringing about a deeper unity within the Meeting. She indicated her belief that IMM tried too hard to act as one on all topics rather than helping individuals carry out their own concerns. IMM needs to consider concerns on their own merit rather than who is for and who opposes a given concern. Further, Meeting should remember when trying to reach unity that some concerns are Meeting concerns while others are individual concerns that could be carried out with the moral support of the Meeting. On specific items:

Action vs. reflection: Although there has been and is a conflict between those who consider action important and those who consider worship alone as sufficient, action and reflection can help each other if thought of as complementary to each other rather than as opposing ideas

Birthright vs. convinced membership: Convinced members have much to offer IMM but are a challenge to more staid members. Birthright members can offer a necessary steadying influence.

Some young people feel they do not have a vital part in the Meeting. Meeting needs to figure out how we can all have a vital role regardless of our permanence.

Sometimes when important topics are brought up, we leave with unclear minds about what actually happened. Edith suggests the clerk make a minute for approval of the sense of the Meeting at the end of such discussions.

Several have suggested that we have not made sufficient use of silence as part of the Business Meeting and that silence should be used as a regular part of our procedure.

Since we have no creed, there is some question as to what we hold in common. What is the foundation of our faith? A useful exercise might be to study together and make our own version of (this section of) Faith and Practice.

A lengthy discussion followed, after which there was silence and the Meeting closed.

July 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Monday, July 9, 7pm

Please note this special time—a Monday evening—for our business meeting. This will be held at the Third Street Meetinghouse. Agenda items should be provided to Steve by Wednesday July 4.

Earthcare Thursday, July 19, 12:30p

Please note new day and new time for the regular Earthcare meeting. We will be meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30pm.

Women's Fellowship Friday, July 20 7p

We'll again enjoy fellowship at the Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street. Enjoy coffee, tea, dinner, and/or dessert.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, July 22, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join in fellowship. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share.

Friends Bike Clinic Sunday, July 22, 1-3p

Bring your bikes and learn how to fix them.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 26, 5p

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

Every Sunday

- 9:30a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**-aged Friends exit the meetingroom. *Note: there is no formal First Day School programming in the summer.* Please be mindful of footfalls while upstairs, and consider removing your shoes.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burtt House (227 N. Willard Way)
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts