



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2012

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

Steve Mohlke
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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

Life Change Committees of Care

The Pastoral Care Committee proposes the following for consideration at the May 20th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Life events such as a birth, death of a loved one, major illness, and change in job or marital status (among others) can be stressful. They are also opportunities for growth and times when a little extra support would be welcome. When we know someone in our community is going through a life change, we usually want to offer help in some way. Yet when we ask how that person is or whether there is anything we can do, the response tends to be "I'm fine, I don't need anything right now." Sometimes when we are going through something major it is much easier to say "I'm fine" than to really explain at that particular moment all the ways in which things are not fine. And sometimes, it is not at all clear to the people going through life changes what, if any, support they need. Some of us have friends upon whom we can easily call, and for others of us that can be a big challenge.

As a community we often cannot tell whether someone has the help he or she needs. Whether because of fear of seeming intrusive or from diffusion of responsibility, it is quite likely that many are not getting the support they need from Meeting when a large life-event takes place. The Pastoral Care committee would like to address this situation so that everyone in our community, even those who have difficulty asking for help, has access to the bountiful care that is available.

One simple way to accomplish this is to create a space in which we can focus on the question "How is your life changing in response to _____?" Since this question can take some time to answer, we need to make a space for it outside of the hubbub of large group gatherings.

What if we had an expectation that anyone experiencing a life change would automatically be offered a committee of care? This would be 2-4 people who, at the very least would offer to meet once or twice (though probably more, in many cases) with the person is experiencing the change and ask how his or her life is changing. Answering this question may be just the starting point. A person could always turn down this offer. But by making the offer automatic, it is clear that accepting is wholly appropriate. The person experiencing the change might even suggest a person or two for the group. Though the word committee is used here, it is intended as a short-term commitment. Friends are often able make room in their lives for something like this even when they are unable to serve on standing committees.

The Pastoral Care committee would set up and support Committees of Care by finding the people, providing general guidance and being aware of resources available if the care committee finds any are needed. In addition, if more or different help from Meeting (such as a Clearness Committee) were needed, the Pastoral Care committee would contact Ministry and Worship for further guidance.

See "Care Committees", page 2

Care Committees, continued from page 1

The following is a helpful way to conceptualize Care Committees versus Clearness Committees, adapted from schoolofthespirit.org

The work of a Clearness Committee is usually short term and specific, such as to help clarify an intent to marry, seek membership, or make personal decisions. The Care Committee generally functions over a longer period of time as determined by the complexity of the situation and the needs of the focus person/participant. The goal of a care committee is to provide sustained spiritual support, guidance, and accountability throughout the duration of the need, though periodic evaluation is necessary.

Friends who have participated in Committees of Care, both those going through a life change and those serving on the committee, have talked about what a rich experience it has been. The Pastoral Care Committee coordinates offers of support of varying kinds for Friends in our Meeting, and would like to recommend this particular form of supporting each other through life's journey.

Respectfully,

Pastoral Care Committee:

*Kathy Beissner, Marion DaGrossa, Bronwyn Mohlke,
Melissa Travis Dunham, Emily Williams Yesukevich*

Needed: Burt House Caretaker

Mary Balfour, Caretaker of the Burt House, has decided to end her long tenure (6 years!) as Caretaker/Friend in Residence of the Burt House, effective August 2012.

The duties of the Burt House Caretaker are many and can be time-consuming. The caretaker's general responsibilities include managing and overseeing maintenance of the house and grounds, the scheduling of events at the house, and maintaining close communication with the Burt House Committee and the Burt House Working Group.

The caretaker should be a person involved in activities of concern to Friends and who is committed to the goal that the house provides a warm and welcoming environment for all activities of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting. The caretaker should share the concern that the Burt House is a center for peace activities and peace education. In addition, it is the responsibility of the caretaker to oversee and nourish the spirit of cooperation within this living community.

Any adult or couple interested in applying for the position should contact Fell Cadwallader at creativeconsonance@gmail.com for more information and instructions on how to apply.

— Melissa Travis Dunham

*For the Burt House Committee and Burt House Working Group:
Mary Balfour, Tom Brown, Wilma Brown, Fell Cadwallader, Blair Jennings, Chris Dunham, and Joanne Sturgeon*

What Are You Reading?

... or, in this case, What Are You Listening To? Helen Schantz sends us the following.

— Lynn Truame

One of the deepest joys in my life is music. I live alone and Netflix has brought me concerts! I have lately felt somewhat unsettled and often unCentered.

On Sunday I watched and listened to a DVD of Bach Sonatas for Violin and Piano, played wondrously by Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin, and Enrico Pace, piano. I listened and listened, feeling more and more at peace. Moved around, made soup, did the dishes, all with Bach playing. (Some might be critical of letting the music be background whilst doing anything else, and yet for me it was like prayer.)

On this same video is a documentary about Zimmermann and I was much moved by his saying: "When I'm restless or the like I play one movement of a Bach violin sonata and I find myself again." Yes, that is just what I felt, through the music! And Enrico Pace said, "When music springs from the silence, that's the best."

— Helen Schantz

Undoing Racism Workshop Series: Training for Building a Beloved Community

The Religious Society of Friends possesses no blueprint for social order. However, our Society, since its founding, has labored for the ordering of a community life in which all may have free and full opportunity to express and develop that divine potential with which everyone is endowed.

— New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, 1995

Ithaca Monthly Meeting will be hosting the 7th annual *Undoing Racism Series* at the Third Street Meeting House! To register for one of three sessions (see below) contact Carolyn Kenyon at clkenyon09@gmail.com or (607) 273-7922.

The first two meetings of the sessions are all day, from 9am to 4pm. The third meeting in a session is from 9am to 1pm.

Session 1: Mondays: May 7, 14, and 21

Session 2: Tuesdays: May 8, 15, and 22

Session 3: Wednesdays: May 9, 16, and 23

Attendance in all three days of a session are required.

Workshop participants will engage in a comprehensive exploration of how racism shapes American institutions, often without our conscious understanding that it is doing so. The goal is to foster local work groups that will continue the conversation and work toward institutional change.

Conflict in Monthly Meetings: Workshop on June 16th

Members of New York Yearly Meeting's Conflict Transformation Committee are traveling throughout the Yearly Meeting offering their one-day workshop entitled "Conflict in Monthly Meetings: Crisis or Opportunity?" Ithaca Monthly Meeting will host the workshop on Saturday, June 16th.

Many Monthly Meetings are troubled by tensions among members. These may be experienced as "problems with difficult Friends," a newcomer inattentive to the Meeting's traditions, a personal animosity that spills over into Quaker worship, or a Friend who is led to offer ministry in ways the Meeting perceives as outside our traditions. Frequently Meetings feel that, "if only that Friend would stop, things would be better and we could go back to the way we were."

This workshop will explore these commonly-arising issues and the facilitator will share insights into how they can be acknowledged, addressed, and used as an opportunity for advancement and transformation.

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to assign representatives to attend. Please note that the workshop has a maximum enrollment of 18. Lunch will be provided and participants will receive materials for further study, including *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation* by John Paul Lederach. To enroll, or for any questions, please contact Peter Phillips, at FPeterPhillips@aol.com. The workshop will run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The requested donation is \$20.

This workshop will be facilitated by Peter Phillips, Clerk of the Conflict Transformation Committee. He is a professional mediator who has written three books on business conflict and has lectured in the U.S., Europe, Africa and Asia. Sue Baker-Carr will be hosting the workshop.

Chris Sabas of Christian Peacemaker Teams at the Burt House on May 7th

Chris Sabas, of the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) www.cpt.org, will talk about her recent assignment in Colombia providing accompaniment for persons under direct physical threat from paramilitary units and military brigades.

Chris considers Ithaca home and previously resided at the Burt House from February 2011 until she joined CPT in January 2012.

All are welcome for the dish-to-pass dinner at 5:30. The formal presentation, beginning at 7:00, will last for one hour and will be followed by a period of silent reflection.

Afterward, there will be time for continued conversation accompanied by dessert.



Chris Sabas of Christian Peacemaker Teams

Friends Bike Clinic: Now at Farmer's Market!

Bicycling is a wonderfully tangible component of our peace witness and environmental activism. Every fourth Sunday we gather on the meetinghouse deck to work on our bikes together. Now the Friends Bike Clinic will also be set up at the Farmer's Market gazebo on Saturday, May 5th 10am to 2pm and first Saturdays thereafter. Come get help working on your bike and come help



out! For more information contact Larry Clarkberg at larry@knowledgetown.com.

Supper and a Movie on May 4th

Brother/Outsider:

The Life of Bayard Rustin.

On May 4 Meeting will be hosting a supper and movie night with guests from St James AME Zion Church. Supper will be a dish to pass provided by Meeting's wonderful cooks starting at 6 p.m. The movie is "Brother/ Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin".

Bayard Rustin was a Quaker and civil rights activist who had primary responsibility for organizing the first Civil Rights March in Washington. 2012 is the centennial of his birth.

Members of the AME Zion Church will be joining us to socialize and to talk about ways in which our two congregations can work on projects of mutual concern. This is a great opportunity to have fellowship with another church and to build ties to the downtown community.

This contact was initiated by Kara Eaton, a member of AME Zion Church. She attended Ithaca Friends Meeting as a child. Pastor Alex Brower who is the current minister at the church has worked on projects with Quaker Meetings in other areas and is looking forward to this gathering.

The movie is about racial conflict and does contain some parts which may not be suitable for small children. Childcare can be provided. Please contact Kathy Beissner at 280-1243 if you wish to have childcare.

Special Dates for Monthly Business Meeting

Several of the dates for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are different from our usual second Sunday over the coming months.

Please note these dates:

May 20 (changed due to Mother's Day)

June 10 (second Sunday as usual)

July 9 (Monday evening only if a meeting is needed - otherwise no July meeting)

August - No Meeting for Business

Earth-Quakers! Youth Retreat June 1st-3rd

Eleven to 18 year olds are invited join us for a weekend of earthy explorations and Quaker questioning! Over the course of this weekend, we will be taking a look at what being a Quaker has to do with living on planet Earth. Stewardship has long been considered part of the Quaker testimonies, but what does it mean when you're camping out? We will have lots of time for outdoor activities and adventure into the wilds of history to find out what early Quakers were thinking of the land they wandered. Weather permitting, we will have the option of camping outside for those who are interested. Come ready to learn about all of the different ways we can experience and appreciate nature - from practical skills like pitching a tent and identifying poison ivy, to deepening our spiritual connection to the earth.

This retreat is facilitated by Helen Marie Staab and Natalie Braun (former Young Friends in Residence interns).

All YFIR youth retreats run from Friday at 6pm to Sunday at 1:00. The retreats are held at Perry City Meeting House 6324 New York 227 Trumansburg, NY 14886.

Retreats are free but donations help us keep the program running!

To get a registration form, please contact: Amy Willauer-Obermayer, aoberm2073@gmail.com, or by mail: 434 Trim Street, Kirkwood, NY 13795.

To bring:

- Yourself and what you need to sleep comfortably inside or out. (Bring your own sleeping bag, pillow, and sleeping pad.)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and other toiletries. There are no shower facilities at Perry City, so please plan ahead accordingly (shower before coming, bring deodorant, etc).
- Clothing for a range of possible weather conditions. Layers are crucial, as are shoes that you don't mind getting muddy.

VOICES: Tribute to Broadway

Friends Ellie Rosenberg, Sue Wolf, Connie Thomas, and Melody Johnson, will all be singing in the chorus. for this event on May 17th at 8pm at Ford Hall on the Ithaca College campus.

They'll be singing a great selection of new and old Broadway: tunes from *The Wiz*, *Hairspray*, *The Lion King*, *West Side Story*, *South Pacific*, and *Ragtime*, complete with a trombone chorus for *Seventy-Six Trombones*!

Tickets \$15 (\$20 at door) To purchase tickets go to: www.ithaca-communitychoruses.org. It is best to get tickets early; if you don't buy tickets in advance, arrive by 7:30.

Indian Affairs Committee

The Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee of New would love to have some new members who feel committed to Native American concerns and issues as well as a desire to assist local Native American projects, efforts, and students. If you are interested or have questions, please see Susan Wolf, QuakerWolf@gmail.com, 272-1618.

April in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

5 Years Ago (May 20, 2007)

Ellie Rosenberg reported for M&O on the successful wedding of Simon and Angelika St. Laurent at the Hector Meetinghouse on May 19.

10 Years Ago (May 5, 2002)

IMM approved, pending review by our attorney and Trustees, the signing of a contract with architects Bayles and Fortner for the design of a new meetinghouse on the Route 79 property.

25 Years Ago (May 11, 1987)

Beth and Martin Jolles transferred their membership from West Branch, Iowa to IMM.

30 Years Ago (May 10, 1982)

A resume of three threshing sessions and a summation meeting held by M&O were presented. Two distinct issues emerged from these sessions: (1) Communication within the Meeting was reported to be often poor; and (2) Meeting needs to continue to struggle with its difficult issues. M&O will study the need for separate Committees of Oversight and Ministry & Worship. IMM decided to continue the threshing meetings; one Wednesday evening each month, Midweek Meeting will deal with a specific meeting-related issue.

IMM approved a minute of loving support for those in the Meeting community who have been led in conscience to refuse to pay all or part of their federal taxes which go for preparation for war.

60 Years Ago (May 18, 1952)

Annual Meeting of IMM, held in Barnes Hall. Queries and Advices were read, minutes of the past annual meeting were approved, and the Epistle to Friends from Arch Street Yearly Meeting was read. Committee reports were presented. Then Ned Burt introduced the guest speaker, Edmund Cranch. In Ed's talk, he expressed his views on a number of topics that were to be presented at the Oxford Conference (which Ed was to attend in England in the summer). Ed told the story of his own search for truth and the part IMM had played in that search. He stressed the need for a continuous and a fearless search for truth. He felt that the three chief and necessary ingredients in religion are Justice, Truth, and Compassion - that our religious life must be aimed at achieving these three things in our individual lives and in our group life. [Historian's note: For several decades IMM had its annual meeting in April or May, sometimes preceded by a meal. It was customary to have brief committee reports, followed by a guest speaker, before closing with silence.]

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 15, 2012

Clerk: Steve Mohlke

Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel and Marilyn Ray

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all annual reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

201204.1 Opening

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, on April 15, 2012. At 12:15 PM, 15 Friends gathered and settled into silence. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and extended our appreciation to Elspeth Rhodin, who was holding today's Meeting in the Light. Clerk read from *The Wisdom of Group Decisions*, by Craig Freshly, on the work of making good group decisions. The author reminds us that the core of "practice" is "act": in order to improve, we have to try things out. After the reading, we continued in open worship.

201204.2 Continuing Quaker Education

Ministry and Worship has suggested that the Clerk include a bit of time at business meetings to review practices and procedures which pertain to Friends' conduct of business. In Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business we try to create a container in which the Spirit can work among us and through each one of us. The practice of rising to speak creates a place to which all can focus attention. This permits the person speaking to pause, to speak at a careful pace, and to not be concerned with interruption. The practice of waiting to be recognized serves to pace the flow of the meeting, to give opportunity for listeners to absorb what has been said, and to make room for those who may be reluctant to speak. Both of these practices keep us mindful that this is a Meeting for Worship. Clerk invites us to reflect on other practices we find worthy of attention, and to suggest them for future meetings. @

201204.3 Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W)

Marin Clarkberg reported on the Committee for Clearness for membership of Sue Baker-Carr. Marin read from a poem which had been part of Sue's letter. M&W recommended and Meeting APPROVED welcoming Sue into membership.

Marin then reported on Nancy Riffer's request for transfer of membership into Ithaca Monthly Meeting from Syracuse MM. Nancy's transfer was received.

Chuck Mohler brought the report from the Clearness Committee which Steve Mohlke had requested in February to help him consider applying to the School of the Spirit. The report included some details of what this decision involves for Steve and for

IMM. The clearness committee continues to work with Steve as he prepares his application, and brought several recommendations to the Meeting. 1) The following Minute was proposed and APPROVED:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting expresses its willingness to support Steve Mohlke's work in the School of the Spirit by appointing a Committee of Care, should his application be accepted.

In the discussion, there was clarification of the distinction between a Committee of Care and a Committee of Clearness, when Friends request assistance with a concern or leading. 2) If Steve is accepted into the Program, the clearness committee also recommends that IMM support Steve by releasing him from other Meeting responsibilities, beginning in January 2013 when his term as Clerk is completed. Friends offered reflections on the implications for the whole Meeting of a member's participation in this program, and on how it compares with other forms of spiritual seeking. 3) Lastly, the clearness committee recommends that IMM consider financial support for Steve's study, perhaps in the range of \$2-3000 out of the full tuition of \$7000.

Friends received the report. @

201204.4 Nominating Committee

Nancy Gabriel brought the report from Nominating Committee. The report was read and received. More information about the planned workshop will be in the May newsletter.@

201204.5 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer, gave the report for March, which contains some corrections and adjustments of past months' financial reports. Anyone seeking more detail can contact the Treasurer. Friends accepted this month's report as well as corrected reports for December 2011 through February 2012. @

201204.5 Other concerns.

A Friend suggested putting a section in each Newsletter which would highlight the practices presented in the Continuing Quaker Education portion of business meeting. @

Fifteen Friends settled into worship at 1:25 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on May 20, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk

May 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Supper & Movie with St James AME Zion Church Friday, May 4, 6p

Join us in hosting a supper and movie night with guests from St James AME Zion Church. Supper will be a dish to pass at 6 p.m. The movie is "Brother/ Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin". For more information, see page 3.

Meetinghouse Workday Saturday, May 5, 9a-12p

Please join us. We will focus on finishing the upstairs painting and some outdoor projects if weather allows. All ages welcome. Pizza provided.

Chris Sabas of CPT at the Burt House Monday, May 7, 5:30p

Chris Sabas of the Christian Peacemaker Teams will talk about her recent assignment in Colombia (see page 3). All are welcome for the dish-to-pass dinner at 5:30. The formal presentation, beginning at 7:00, will last for one hour and will be followed by a period of silent reflection. Afterward, there will be time for continued conversation accompanied by dessert.

Bike to Work Day: Breakfast at the Meetinghouse Friday, May 18, 7:30-9:30a

Friends Bike Clinic will be a breakfast station for Bike to Work Day on May 18th. From 7:30 to 9:30 am on the meetinghouse deck we will serve breakfast to people who bike to work on that day. We plan to serve coffee and Quaker oatmeal. Come help serve or stop by on your way biking to work. For more information contact Larry Clarkberg at larry@knowledgetown.com.

Women's Fellowship Friday, May 18, 7p

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

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, May 20, Rise of Meeting

Note that this is a special date for monthly meeting. Please provide agenda items to Steve Mohlke (see contact information on page 1 sidebar) by the preceding Wednesday).

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 Friends participating in **First Day School** exit the meetingroom. Please be mindful of footfalls while upstairs, and consider removing your shoes.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, May 24, 5p

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

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, May 27, Rise of Meeting

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

Friends Bike Clinic Sunday, May 27, 1p

Bring your bikes and learn how to fix them.

IMM Summer Retreat: June 25-28

This summer, our annual outdoor-oriented retreat will be held Monday through Thursday of the week immediately following the last days of public school. We will be gathering at Robert Treman State Park, and will again have the pavilion at the lower campground, just past the spot where the road passes through the shallow creek. Some of us have rented campsites and cabins. Some of us will come to the park just for the day.

This will be the eleventh summer gathering of children and adults from our Meeting. It is a terrific experience, and a wonderful chance to spend quality time getting to know others in our Meeting.

We are always interested in activities and workshops. It is wonderful when Friends come and share activities or talents with children. In addition, we also welcome some adult-oriented workshops or discussions.

Please consider how you might contribute to this special event. Read a favorite story aloud? Lead us in yoga... or Zumba? Join in campfire singing? Teach us to crochet? Walk us through some Bible study?

For more information, contact Marin Clarkberg, Bronwyn Mohlke, or Tonia Saxon.

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 Burt 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