



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2013

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

Clerk:

Antonia Saxon • 607-387-5244
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org
Box 167 • T-burg, NY 14886

Assistant Clerk:

Marilyn Ray • 607-539-7778
mlr17@cornell.edu

Treasurer:

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

Ministry & Worship:

Barbara Ganzel
607-275-9512 • blg4@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams • 703.297.9849
ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1024
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Burt House, 227 N Willard Way

Megan Mills-Novoa, Friend-in-Residence
megnovoa@gmail.com • 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 message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others about events in the Ithaca community, broader social causes or other non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:
mlr17@cornell.edu

Witness in Uganda: The Source

— Molly Bowen Ames

I recently spent 24 days in Uganda, Africa. (Home of Idi Amin, Joseph Koni, child soldiers and more importantly; some of the most kind, gentle and peaceful people I have ever met.) On my first day off, I travelled to Jinja. This is the place where Lake Victoria flows into the Nile River and it is proudly known by Ugandans as “The Source.” I am not sure if this is a play on words, referencing “The Source” of humankind since Uganda is in the heart of the Rift Valley. There is general consensus amongst archaeologists that human life has its origins in the East African rift valley. Around 2.5 to 2 million years ago, early East African humans were already moving on two legs and made tools from stone and perhaps animal bones. But if it is a play on words, it would be entirely appropriate to my experience there. “Source” means “origin - spring - well - fountain - fount - root.” It means: a place, person or thing from whence something comes.”

I am not sure whether Africa is a “source” or a “destination” or just a stop on my spiritual path. But for sure it has been a part of my faith journey. The African part began when I traveled to Malawi in 2000 as a part of a partnership visitation between the NNY Presbytery and the Synod of Livingstonia. The seeds of that early visit are still bearing fruit in the on-going relationship between those churches. For me, this trip began a series of journeys to Africa, each once strengthening and deepening my knowledge of the “family of man.” I am whole-heartedly grateful for that knowledge. It has changed my life.

Everywhere I went, I experienced warmth, friendliness and kindness. Yes this was partly because I sought it out. I learned that the greatest currency I possess is my smile and my loving heart. I learned that most often, the scariest character will respond in kind if I smile at them. Children, old women, young girls, tough-looking men (like policemen, guards, and soldiers) would look at me, would see me smiling at them and smile back. And I saw what is most important to most people I met; family, friends and relationships. There is a universal language. It is love. We all crave it, we share it, we seek it, and we all understand it.

My students wanted to see pictures of my family. They loved them! At first I did not understand why. But then I realized that it was in the pictures of my loved ones that they recognized what unites us; the joy we all feel in a new-born baby, the warmth we feel when we recognize a parents pride for their children and the respect we have for our grandparents.

The Source, continued on page 2

Summer Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse at 10am

We will continue the practice of last year of having Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse on all First Days in July and August, with the option of continuing through September. To facilitate Friends' participation in Meeting for Worship with Attention for Business and fellowship at the Third Street Meetinghouse, we are scheduling Hector Meeting for Worship for 10:00.

The Source, continued from page 1

I came to feel deeply that I was one with these people. These people are my brothers and sisters. We are all one family. I will go even further and say we are all one organism. We are one tribe, one species; we are the Child of God. In our heart and in the blood that runs through us is God's hope for us. I call it love.

Certainly I was struck by how different my life is from theirs. Life in Uganda for a majority of the population is very hard, especially for women. They cook over charcoal. They carry water from a shared "bore hole well" (if they are lucky). The wells are from 200 feet to ½ mile away. Their houses are made of homemade brick, without floors or indoor plumbing. Most do not have electricity. But they do have lots of food, though they don't shop in stores or supermarkets. Thank God for the land's fertility and rainfall! Still it is hard work growing your family's food.

There are few government schools and they are poorly funded. Every day I traveled by a building that I assumed was a livestock shed. When I was finally taken to visit it, I found out it was a school building. It was made of poles set in the clay, no floor, rough cut wooden boards for sides and a tin roof. There were six classrooms in a 20 x 60 building. This was a private school that also served as an orphanage for the fair number of AIDS orphans who have lost both parents. These children are sometimes just picked up

by the side of the road and brought to the orphanage. Others are brought by elderly relatives who cannot care for them.

So getting back to my epiphany, when one of us is hurting; we all hurt, or should hurt. I hurt for them. Ugandans live on less than \$1000 per year. Their health is precarious. Their infrastructure is inferior; hospitals, schools, roads, sanitation, and water are all sub-standard. It is easy to forget, when on our shores and thousands of miles and light years away, that we are connected, that we are one. But I saw it as clear as day. We are a giant sprawled across the continents, our head on a melting glacier, our feet dangling in the ocean off some coast or other and one arm draped across Africa and the other across South America. And we are hurting. Parts of us are hurting. We must do something to help the parts of us who are hurting. We must not forget. The disparity of wealth distribution in the world is immoral. Small things can help. We can all do a little.

It doesn't matter the causes of poverty, the history or anything else. It matters that we are hurting and we must take care of ourselves. It doesn't even matter how we respond. It just matters that we do respond. If you had a cut on your hand you would bandage it. If you had a broken arm, you would tend to it. And if you saw a little child staring at you, you would smile and he or she would smile back!

July in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (JULY 13, 2008)

Alexa Yesukevich was welcomed into membership of IMM.

Rini (Marin) Clarkberg reported that about 30 kids attended the Retreat this year. The children prepared 125 sack lunches for Loaves & Fishes and delivered them.

10 Years Ago (July 13, 2003)

A member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Hector Meeting House reported that the committee suggests that Meeting lay down the idea of moving the Meeting House. After laboring with heartfelt feeling, Friends arrived at the following minute: "Meeting will go forward with the design of a Meeting House which does not include the moving of the Hector Meeting House. We seek to maintain the heritage, right use and upkeep of the Hector Meeting House." Approved.

15 Years Ago (July 13, 1998)

The Burt House Committee reported that Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke are leaving as caretakers of the Burt House. The Committee is now in the process of looking for a new caretaker. The Meeting has asked the Committee to take necessary action for repairs of the sign at the entrance to the point. The Committee also was asked to add in some manner that alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted. Approved.

20 Years Ago (July 12, 1993)

Marilyn Ray was welcomed into membership of IMM.

Trustees reported that Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke will be the new caretakers for the Burt House.

25 Years Ago (July 11, 1988)

Tom Brown, Treasurer, reported that the Sanctuary Fund was rapidly being expended due to helping Juan, a Salvadorian refugee under care of IMM and the Ithaca Area Sanctuary Committee (IASC), with his living expenditures and also sending money home for the support of Juan's family. (Separate Sanctuary Funds were held by IMM, IASC, and Poplar Ridge Meeting.) A number of individuals associated with other churches also contributed to these funds.)

30 Years Ago (July 11, 1983)

A Building/Meetinghouse Committee reported on a meeting with City officials to determine what changes would be needed at the Burt House for the House to meet City codes for a place of public meetings. Primary changes needed were the installation of a fire alarm system, improving the electrical system, and modifying doors so that they opened outward. Meeting approved the use of Building funds to begin this work. In a letter to the Meeting, Ned Burt expressed his appreciation that Meeting had let this matter lie quietly during the six months following Marjorie's death, but that he was ready for Meeting to commence greater use of the House and that he would gladly modify his living needs so that the building could serve as a Friends Center.

— Tom Brown, Historian

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, June 9, 2013

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel, Marin Clarkberg & Susan Ruff
(*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.*)

2013 6.01 Opening.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 9, 2013. At 12:21 PM, 16 Friends gathered in open worship. The Clerk reviewed the agenda and acknowledged Nancy Gabriel, who was holding this Meeting in the Light.

Clerk's Reading was taken from Silence and Witness by Michael Birkel; by Ham Sok Hon (1902-89), "Our thoughts should not be too narrow...The laws of the universe and of life are poly-dimensional. It should not make a difference if we have different thoughts. No two people have the same face. Such is life. Why do people insist that my religion and my thoughts should be the same as theirs?...Varieties of life and thought should grow."

2013 6.02 Report from Third Street Meetinghouse Committee.

- a. TSMC has discussed the upcoming piano donation and the best way to move the piano from the storage closet to the Meeting Room. Their best solution is to raise the level of the entire closet floor to make it the same height as the meeting room floor. This would involve about \$325 in materials for floor-raising and about \$100 for racks to hold the tables currently stored there. Several Meeting members would supply the labor. Meeting discussed various budget lines that could pay for this (repair fund, general reserve fund, donations, or a

combination from these lines). The general reserve fund may be needed to cover final Meeting House project expenses to which we have already committed.

Phases 1 and 2 of the Meeting House Project were combined and have to be closed together. We were reminded that the cost of acquiring the piano that the Meeting agreed to was for wheels to aid in moving, a cover, and tuning. Finance Committee will review the pledges that are outstanding, analyze where we are on project expenses and develop an order for several phase 3 projects, which include finishing the closet room floor. @

- b. TSMC has also investigated the addition of a railing outside the kitchen door. Accufab has given the committee a price of about \$1,200 to make and install it. Donations have been received for half the cost, which would leave Meeting with the expense of about \$600 to have the railing installed. Members have expressed the need for such an assist on the stairs and it would offer a potential safety benefit for all. Although there is a handicapped access ramp with a railing, sometimes the glass doors are locked when there is a need to get into the kitchen. This project is a safety issue. Meeting approves making the expenditure to put railings on the kitchen stairs using the general fund reserve. @

2013 6.03 Treasurer's Report.

Mike Simkin presented the monthly treasurer's report. Friends received the report. @

Thirteen Friends settled into worship at 2 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of meeting on July 14, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan Ruff, Recording Clerk

Greetings from the Flames First Day School Room
— *Fell Cadwallader*

You know the one. Upstairs corner facing Third St. and the courtyard...the one with the din of an adult voice and the overlapping higher pitches of our enthusiastic children aged 6-10 (or so) years of age.

Yes...that one!

Francis Vaneck and I have concluded our tandem teaching for the year and would like to share a few insights from the children concerning this year's theme, Pastoral Care.

First we thank Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee for nurturing the First Day School (FDS) program. Nobody really understands the work that goes into committee participation unless you have been a committee member. We all know what it's like when something is missing though. In the case of CALM this rings doubly true as we tend to take for granted that

"someone" is handling the children. When no one is...we really know that! So hats off to all the other teachers, the great members of CALM and both our wives who helped Francis and I out immensely this year, Catherine & Blair. Thanks!

Each year CALM provides the FDS teachers with a theme based on one of the committees of our Meeting. This year it was Pastoral Care. From our (Francis & mine) perspective it offered a consistent guide to connecting with the children each week. Having 45 minutes to corral, settle and connect with the kids, a consistent touchstone facilitates meaningful time each week.

Without boring you with all the details (as you may just as easily recall them from the wonderful, youthful exuberance from that corner of the meeting room ceiling over the year) we'd like to share with you some of the ideas, comments, understandings that have come from the kids about the role of Pastoral Care in their lives over this year:

Flames Report, continued on page 4

- It's a verb, "taking care of others."
- "They" can be animals, the earth, resources, community, friends, pets (BIG on the pets!!)
- How do we take care of another? We listen. We become aware. We understand. We educate ourselves. We communicate. We help.
- Which leads us to being able to "Do Something." Preferably the best, most helpful, next right thing.

If it was an adult class I'm sure I'd have a lot more notes, comments and feedback. But as I reflect on what the children offer us about Pastoral Care, I'm not sure we would add much. It seems to us they have provided a concise guide to enriching Pastoral Care within our Meeting.

Enjoy the summer and we look forward to bringing much to consider from the "corner of the ceiling of the Worship space" next Fall.

July 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Community Cooking for Pastoral Care Saturday, July 6, 2-5p

Friends, we have many opportunities coming up to show our support for individuals and families in our Meeting by bringing them meals. We will let you know as those needs arise, but the Pastoral Care committee is also hosting a community cooking session at the Meetinghouse. We'll cook some meals to freeze, so that we'll have them ready as soon as they're needed.

We will share more details via the listserv about ingredients needed, etc. For more information contact Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183 / BJQMohlke@gmail.com)

First Sunday Gentle Yoga Sunday, July 7, 9:45a

Join us upstairs for gentle yoga led by Nick Boyar. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience and flexibility. No mat required.

Peace Witness Committee Saturday, July 13, 12n

Peace Witness meets at the Burtt House, 227 Willard Way (not far from the Cornell campus).

Floating Meeting at Emily and Alexa's Saturday, July 13, 4p

Floating meeting is back! Floating meeting has traditionally been an intergenerational social gathering to allow old and new friends

to get to know one another better. All are welcome!

This will be a Quaker dish-to-pass/barbecue at the house of Emily and Alexa Yesukevich (171 Ridgecrest Road). Veggie burgers and some meat will be provided, as well as a hot grill.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, July 14, Rise of Meeting

Please provide agenda items to Clerk Antonia Saxon by the preceding Wednesday. See contact info on page 1, left column.

Women's Fellowship Friday, July 18, 7p

Friendly fellowship at Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street. Join for coffee, tea, dessert, or just a chance to be with Friends.

Fourth Sunday Brunch Sunday, July 28, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share. This is a wonderful opportunity for Friends folks to get to know others.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, July 25, 5p

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

Every Sunday



- 10:00a Summer Meeting for Worship at **Hector Meetinghouse**
- 10:00a **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.

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
- Sun 1-3p **Friends Bike Clinic** on the Meetinghouse deck