

Newsletter of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

May 2013

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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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

Tax Witness



Tax Witness in front of the post office on April 15 with an AFSC banner depicting the percent of the discretionary budget devoted to the military spending. From left to right: Tom Joyce of Perry City Friends Meeting, Indigo Wild, Garry Thomas and Jan Frieswyk. Photo credit: Caleb Thomas

Noise From Above: An Opportunity for Discernment

— Nancy Riffer

While attending a CALM Committee meeting recently, I discovered that First Day School teachers worry a lot about the noise the children upstairs make during Meeting for Worship. Some teachers worry more than others, but they all worry.

The teachers were recently delighted to learn that some participants in Meeting find the sounds made by the children an aid to worship: "When I notice the noise of the children, I know it's time for me to go deeper." I've been aware that some F/friends find the noise upstairs distracting but that others find it an aid is a new perspective.

Loud noises occasionally emanate from upstairs. A child may separate herself from the group and start doing something like banging a toy on the floor without the teacher noticing. This is a time when someone from Meeting for Worship usually goes upstairs to let the teachers know.

I've learned more about discernment from my recent participation on a clearness committee. I've come to see that God leads me in small decisions as well as large. It occurs to

"Noise", continued on page 2

me that times when there are loud noises coming from upstairs may be an occasion for discernment. The interaction can take place in a spirit of worship and cooperation. Both groups are involved in important spiritual activities.

I need to discern whether I'm the best person to go upstairs. Am I feeling serene

enough that I can express appreciation for the value of the learning that is going on upstairs, and let the teachers know that they are usually very successful in keeping the noise level down but that right now there's a sound that is disruptive? A spiritual process of discernment can be relevant even when we are interacting around smallish concerns.

Since the CALM workshop, I'm trying to expand how I hold all members of the Meeting inside our spiritual community. This requires me to shift how I think about First Day School and its important work of developing children's spirituality.

Sweepers Needed

*Chim Chimney, Chim Chim Cher-ee,
When you're with a SWEEP, you're in
glad company!*

The Sweepers could use more members. Ours is a lively group dedicated to keeping the Third Street Meetinghouse (THM) clean. We work in teams and the more members we have, the less often our turns come up. We understand that there are times when Friends, because of other commitments, need to take a break, but that occasionally results in some of us sweeping every other week, which is a bit much.

This is a wonderful way to support the meeting, make an important contribution and have more money (\$5,000/year) available to do social outreach etc.

Because all who use the TMH are careful to leave it in better condition than they found it, sweeping does not take more than 1 1/2-2 hours/time and can be scheduled whenever you and your team mate are free during the week.

We can set up a training session if you'd like to see if being a sweeper would work for you. Contact: Melody Johnson: 272-8755, rcrepe1@twcny.rr.com.

Five Wishes Pamphlets

The Pastoral Care Committee has additional copies of *The Five Wishes* pamphlet, the first living will that talks about your personal, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes.

Filling out *The Five Wishes* pamphlet is a gift for family members, so that they know what you would like to happen should you become seriously ill, rather than leaving all of the decisions up to them during a crisis. If you would like a pamphlet for you and/or for your family members, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke.

Bible Study at Perry City Friends

Friends at Perry City Meeting (near Trumansburg) have just completed a rewarding Bible study series. We want to invite others to join our next session.

We have been studying in the manner of Friends Joanne and Larry Spears. They have developed a very helpful method. There is a small booklet which describes it and we are happy to share that with others who may be interested.

We did six sessions, meeting every other week for an hour in the evening. We will be planning our next session or sessions the first Sunday in May. A group of five or six people seems ideal and we will plan for two if there is enough interest.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us. Contact Tom Joyce, tomjoyce51@aim.com, 277-7426.

VOICES Concert

Several Friends from our Meeting sing in the VOICES Multicultural Chorus of Ithaca, directed by Dr. Baruch Whitehead.

VOICES will present its spring concert, "Celebrating Ten Years of VOICES", Saturday, May 11 at 7pm, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca.

The program features favorites from past concerts, with songs of Africa, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Puerto Rico and more. Tickets (\$11) are available at the door or in advance from Ticket Center Ithaca (607) 273-4497

Letting Go

I am a hollow glass body

filled with a rushing current
of love, sunshine and sea.

Someone hammers.

My diamond barrier stands
strong,

keeping my precious treas-
ures safe.

Someone taps.

The translucent film shatters
and falls to the floor,

With the unique sound of
breaking glass:

scary, startling, ending in a
mess.

But there is no mess.

My love, the world's love.

My sunshine, the light from the
sun.

My sea, the big deep sea.

They mix, they swirl together
and

I am

I am

I am

Broken and yet whole for the
first time,

I am me.

—Thea Clarkberg,
on her 13th birthday

What is New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM)?

From time to time, someone asks "What is New York Yearly Meeting?"

The answer often goes something like "an association of roughly 90 monthly meetings, worship groups, preparative meetings in New York State, Western Connecticut and Northern New Jersey." But among Quakers, the word "Meeting" or "meeting" denotes several kinds of gathering, experience, and entity. "New York Yearly Meeting" has met at least annually since 1696. (That is: 317 annual meetings.)

At the time of George Fox it was decided that an annual gathering was a good idea for this new, growing association of Friends. Those within reasonable travel distance came together for a few days, to compare notes, hear each other's travails and inspirations, offer one another practical help, and to worship. Well what does our Yearly Meeting do? Those who know have a hard time answering this succinctly because of the breadth of activity which comprises the yearly meeting: Witness; Ministry; Youth; Serving as our collective voice; and more. However, last month's newsletter is rich with specific answers connected to Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

The lead article was about...

ARCH

(Aging Resources Consultation & Help.) Several from our meeting attended a training. This is a program of NYYM.

The other article on the front page was about a workshop, which has since taken place, led by Chris and Mike, the directors of the Youth Program at...

Powell House.

While Powell House is technically a separate entity from NYYM, Powell House is very much NYYM's conference center. About 25 people attended the workshop and many more than that have attended Powell House conferences over the 50+ years it has been in operation.

The next headline is on page 3 from the Meeting Library. Wilma notes that she put together a shelf of resources on "The Gathered Meeting" and that this was inspired by the January issue of *Spark*, NYYM's newsletter that appears 5 times a year. Since 2005,

Spark...

has had a theme for each issue which you can find here <http://nyym.org/?q=spark>.

Much of the writing and editing is done by volunteers but staff help round it out.

Two of the headlines on page 4 are connected to NYYM. The announcement about Spring Gathering is really about the .

Farmington-Scipio Region,

but that is one of nine similar entities (they are not all called regions) that make up the yearly meeting. There is an announcement about a...

YFIR

(Young Friends In Residence) retreat that has since taken place for 11 - 18 year olds at Perry City Meeting. Though Perry City hosts it, this too is a program of NYYM and a few of our kids were there. Page 5 includes an announcement of upcoming workshops at Powell House.

On page 6 there is an announcement about the community viewing of the film *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. This was made possible, in part, by a grant from the

Witness Activities Fund

of NYYM and by the Black Concerns Committee. On page 7, the article on The Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign grew out of Susan Wolf's work on the

Indian Affairs Committee

of NYYM.

On page 8, the article about the Friends Bike Clinic notes that it too received a grant from the

Witness Activities Fund

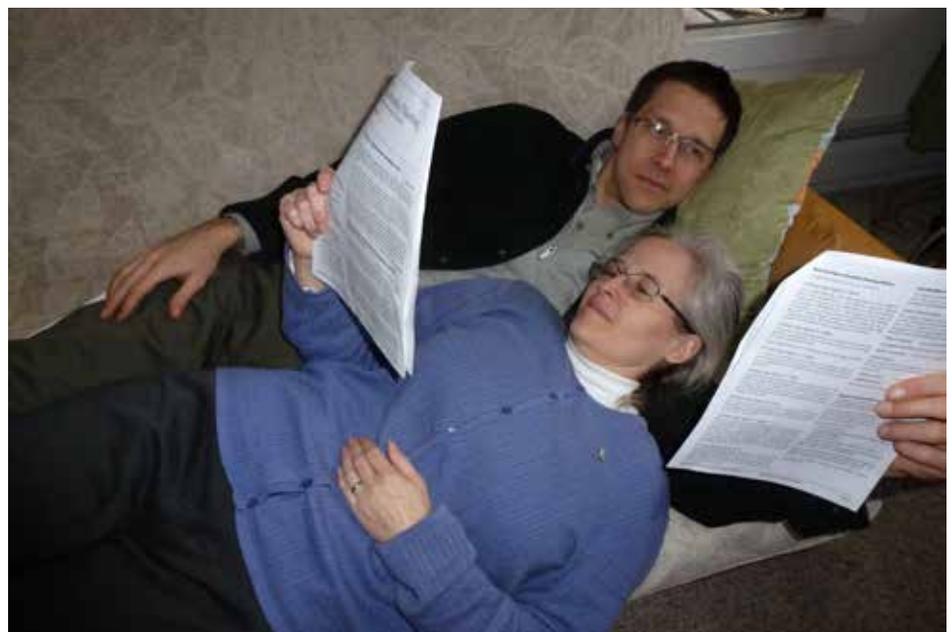
of NYYM.

The minutes of our meeting for business on page 9 make 3 references to NYYM.

- Our clerk read from NYYM's Consent Agenda Procedure.
- Marilyn Ray's Statement of Conscience will be forwarded to NYYM.
- Our State of the Meeting report is developed using queries from NYYM's Ministry Coordinating Committee

and forwarded back to the same.

In the end, the answer is "*We* are NYYM" along with more than 3,000 others. As our monthly meeting is shaped by those who participate, so too is the yearly meeting. Some of this work is carried out by staff but most is handled by volunteers from monthly meetings who also serve on yearly meeting committees. Watch for announcements after meeting for worship and/or in upcoming IMM newsletters and in SPARK for the annual gathering this summer July 21-27.



Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke identify NYYM references in the April newsletter for fun. (Earthcare Committee may want to ask them to share a single copy in the future.)

May in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

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

10 Years Ago (May 4, 2003)

The Peace and Social Action Committee was divided into two committees, Peace Witness and Social Justice. A charge for each of the committees was presented and approved. A series of advices were drawn up for the new committees, including that they meet jointly from time to time because their purpose is closely related.

Heather Ruff was welcomed into membership of IMM.

15 Years Ago (May 11, 1998)

The Hector Meetinghouse Committee reported that the new ramp to the building has been completed.

A clearness committee for Marriage was requested and established for Tony Serviente and Barbara Ganzel.

65 Years Ago (May 24, 1948)

The IMM Annual Meeting was held at Willard Straight Hall. After a summary of the year's activities, Friends got their dinner in the cafeteria and returned to the Terrace Room to eat. The guest speaker was Stephen Carey, who had just returned from 31 months in Europe with the AFSC, and who had just been appointed Clarence Pickett's assistant. He talked on the effects of American foreign policy in Europe, stressing the lack of principle which Europeans find in our actions and urging seven points that he believed were needed for peace. Friends greatly admired and appreciated his talk and thanked him sincerely for his trip to Ithaca for this purpose.

Note: Clarence Pickett was Executive Secretary of AFSC from 1929-1950 and advisor to several U.S. presidents.

70 Years Ago (May 30, 1943)

IMM welcomed Harrop and Ruth Freeman, members of NYYM, who had recently moved to the Ithaca area.

75 Years Ago (May 3, 1938)

An ad hoc committee of Walter Balderston and Amy Grace Mekeel, appointed to make recommendations for changes in Meeting's organization, recommended the following: (1) appoint a recording clerk who shall assist the clerk in keeping the minutes of the Meeting as well as keeping records of members and attenders, births, and deaths; (2) appoint Elders whose duties shall be the fostering of the spiritual life and ministry of the Meeting; and (3) appoint Overseers to foster a more intimate contact with members of the Society and other interested persons coming to Ithaca. "To them is entrusted the good order of the Meeting and a general oversight of its activities." The next month, Amy Grace Mekeel was approved as Recording Clerk; Edith Cope and Theodore Oliver as Elders, and Loren Petry and Sarah Wray as Overseers.

— Tom Brown, Historian

Notes from the Library: The Audio-Visual Shelf

One shelf in our library has been designated for tapes, CDs, and DVDs that belong to the Meeting. As usual, these materials are for borrowing. Please sign-out on the card in the pocket and leave the card in the sign-out box. To return materials, simply place them in the return basket.

If you haven't yet experienced tapes from the Teaching Company, you are in for a real treat. These courses, covering a huge variety of subjects, are organized into 30-45 minute lectures by college professors who have great popularity on their respective campuses. In other words, lots of students who are non-majors sign up for their courses just because the professors make them so very interesting. The Teaching Company records these lectures and then they are available to folks like us so we can listen in our cars or kitchens.

Great World Religions

Our collection includes this wonderful set of CDs of the Great World Religions:

BUDDHISM with lecturer Malcolm David Eckel who has studied Buddhism most of his adult life. These lectures survey Buddhism from its origin in India in the 6th or 5th centuries B.C.E. to the present day. During its history Buddhism has grown from a tiny religious community into a movement that now spans the globe.

CHRISTIANITY with lecturer Luke Timothy Johnson, a former Benedictine monk. Professor Johnson provides his definition of religion and explains how Christianity is considered one of the world religions. He describes how Christianity began as a sect of Judaism and grew to dominate the cultural life of Europe. In the 21st century, Christianity appears poised for a renaissance in the developing nations.

HINDUISM with lecturer Mark W. Muesse. This is the world's oldest living religious tradition with roots deep in the early cultures of India. The course explores how Hinduism of very un-Western traditions – arranged marriages and the caste system – has survived and thrived for thousands of years. Its terms and practices – karma, Krishna, yoga, guru – have found a home in Western lives and language.

ISLAM with lecturer John L. Esposito. Islam is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. This course helps provide an understanding of Islam's role as both a religion and a way of life and its deep impact on world affairs both historically and today.

JUDAISM with lecturer Isaiah M. Gafni of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The lectures of this course examine Judaism from within – as it was understood by its adherents in the past and by those who practice or identify with Judaism today. The critical stages of Jewish history are explored as well as the manner in which the Jewish calendar and Jewish law define daily life.

Each of these courses consists of twelve lectures. Check them out and explore.

— Wilma Brown, Librarian

Burt House Caretaker Needed

The Burt House seeks a new Friend-in-Residence (caretaker), beginning as soon as mid-June 2013.

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Megan Mills-Novoa, she has fulfilled the role as caretaker with thoroughness and energetic attention to detail. She has been accepted into a graduate studies program that will take her to Vietnam, far from Ithaca, sooner than she expected.

The duties of the Burt House Caretaker are varied and can be time-consuming (not for the faint-of-heart, says this former caretaker). 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. Renumeration is in the form of housing in the historic Burt House, located on the banks of Fall Creek. We seek a one-year commitment, with the possibility of renewal.

The caretaker is responsible for overseeing and nurturing the intentional community at the Burt House Friends Center, located at 227 North Willard Way, below the Cornell Campus. More specific duties include but are not limited to- the scheduling of regular meetings of house residents, communal dining, the welcoming of sojourners, outreach to the community and building positive relationships with the neighbors. The caretaker helps to create a warm and welcoming environment for all activities of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting, in particular, the Young Friends group that meets there regularly.

The caretaker should share involvement in activities that are of concern to Friends and the concern that the Burt House is a center for peace activities and peace education. All the endeavors are to be conducted in a manner that allows the House to continue to be a "harbor of peace, renewal and refreshment to all who enter it." (Ned and Marjorie Burt, May 15, 1981).

As the Friend-in-Residence for more than six years, I wish to add a few words. Experiencing life as a Friend-in-Residence is a gift that runs deep and flows both ways- to the Quaker community- local

community and farflung corners of the globe- and back to self. The Burt House Friends Center, although quiet in its endeavors, fosters a profound, meaningful way to live a testimony of peace and social justice. The unexpected happens in this community house and it calls for digging deep and growing in the Light on a regular basis. Many people pass through the doors- some seeking refuge and ministering- all with something to offer and to learn from- if one is present to listen.

If this experience calls to you, send a resume and letter of intent to Fell Cadwallader at creativeconsonance@gmail.com.

— *Mary Balfour, for the Burt House Committee and Burt House Working Group: Tom Brown, Wilma Brown, Fell Cadwallader, Chris Dunham, Melissa Travis Dunham, Blair Jennings, and Joanne Sturgeon.*

Special Date for Business Meeting

Please note that May's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on Monday, May 13th at 7pm at the Third Street Meetinghouse. This is instead of the usual second Sunday time. Friends are encouraged to attend.

Developing a Quaker Toolbox Weekend for Families of All Ages

As families, parents, and kids, it is hard to navigate many situations without the right tools. Our Quaker faith and tradition can help us build a toolbox to do hard things.

Consider joining this workshop at Powell House, May 10-12.

This weekend will be about creating a space where we can all be part of meaningful and joyful learning. It is our belief that our children, of all ages, can access and benefit from these tools.

Register by May 1st: \$220 for 2; \$330 for families of 3 or 4; \$440 for families of 5 or more. After May 1st: \$240/\$360/\$480. Visit www.powellhouse.org.

"Minutes", continued from page 6

2013 4.03 Ad Hoc Piano Committee Report. Melody Johnson read the report from the Ad Hoc Piano Committee. Friends found the decision to accept the gift of Mendelssohn Studio piano entailed many related decisions including the location of the piano within the meetinghouse; the logistics of moving it, storing it and caring for it; and the question of responsibility. Many Friends find great joy and spiritual renewal in music. Friends expressed confidence that the logistical issues could be worked out. With clarity that silence is at the heart of Meeting for Worship and increasingly scarce in today's world, Friends approved the acceptance of the gift of the piano, the storage of the piano in the closet adjacent the meetingroom, and the associated expenses of casters, a cover, and tuning. Friends are invited to make donations to help cover these expenses. @

2013 4.04 Report from Ministry and Worship. Marking the end of his Out of the Nest Program, Dylan Kaiser has requested a clearness committee. Marion daGrossa, Elizabeth Simkin, and Laurence Clarkberg have all agreed to serve. Chuck Mohler will convene. @

2013 4.05 Treasurer's Report. Mike Simkin, Treasurer, reported on our income and expenses, including expenses relating to utilities and meetinghouse operations. He noted that we are still learning how much it costs to operate the meetinghouse. @

Seventeen Friends settled into worship at 1:20 PM before adjourning. Our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held on Monday, May 13 at 7pm at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, April 14, 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 4.01 Opening. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 14, 2013. At 12:25 PM, fourteen Friends gathered in open worship. Clerk acknowledged that Steve Mohlke would be holding this Meeting in the Light. Clerk read

from George Fox's Epistle number 10 to Friends. Open worship continued. Clerk reviewed the agenda.

2013 4.02 Nominating Committee. Tom Brown, clerk of Nominating Committee, reported that the committee is still working on constituting two committees, Greeters and Hospitality. The committee brings forth the following names:

- Morgan Michel-Schottman to the Greeters
- Marin Clarkberg, Jody Enck, Christopher Church, and Pat Pingel to the Hospitality Committee.

Friends approved the nomination.

@

"Minutes", continued on page 5

May 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

First Sunday Gentle Yoga **Sunday, May 5, 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.

Joint Meeting of **Social Justice, Peace Witness and Earthcare** **Saturday, May 5, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome join this discussion in the library.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business **Monday, May 13, 7p**

Please take note of this special date. Please provide agenda items to Clerk Antonia Saxon by the preceding Friday. See contact info on page 1, left column.

Peace Witness Committee **Saturday, May 18, 12n**

All are welcome to join us at the Burt House (a lovely house owned by our Meeting and near Cornell) at 227 N Willard Way.

Spiritual Unity: A Discussion **Sunday, May 19, 9a**

"In the Quaker practice of group worship ... come special times when an electric hush and solemnity and depth of power steals over the worshippers. A blanket of divine covering comes over

the room, [dissolving] some part of the special privacy ... of our individual lives."

— Thomas Kelly

What kind of experience do we hope for when we meet together? What is spiritual unity? How do we experience this as individuals? Come investigate together. Steve Mohlke will share and facilitate discussion.

Pastoral Care Discussion: Burial Options **Sunday, May 19, Rise of Meeting**

Join Pastoral Care Committee to discuss local burial options.

Women's Fellowship **Friday, May 23, 7p**

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

Newsletter submissions due **Thursday, May 23, 5p**

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

Fourth Sunday Brunch **Sunday, May 26, Rise of Meeting**

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

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**-aged Friends exit the meetingroom. 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 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