



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

October 2013

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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

What It Means to be a Quaker: Spiritual Gifts and Testimonies

— Nancy Riffer

On Sundays October 20th and November 3rd there will be an opportunity for Friends to learn more about Quakerism. I will lead both sessions starting at 9am.

We will use readings from *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order* by Lloyd Lee Wilson to increase our understanding of 1) spiritual gifts and 2) testimonies in the life of a Quaker Meeting.

This book was chosen because members of our Meeting have found Wilson's ideas to be clear, thought-provoking and challenging. Wilson writes from a Christ-centered perspective. Some F/friends do not feel comfortable with that point of view. Those readers who have been able to set aside the aspects of Wilson's perspective that they have difficulty with have found that his insights and the questions he raises are valuable. Our discussion will focus on those aspects of Wilson's ideas that participants find meaningful.

What It Means, continued on p 2

www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org: An Overhaul

— Steve Mohlke

I am initiating an overhaul of the meeting's website, and I invite you to participate. My goal is to collect ideas, identify goals for the site, organize and prioritize the ideas and goals, and then produce a plan for updating the site. I expect to set up an online form to make it easy for everyone to contribute ideas. I also will be facilitating three to five meetings this Fall so that those interested can help shape the result. I hope to finish the plan sometime in February and present it to the meeting after that. Actual updates would take place after the meeting approves the plan and any revisions.

Our meeting's website was originally designed when most people thought of websites in the way we think of print advertising: something we use to inform the outside world about who we are. Over time we have added more and more content as it became an increasingly important means of sharing information among ourselves. Laurence Clarkberg had integrated these changes for several years, but has indicated he no longer wants that role.

Since changes in the website have occurred incrementally over many years, I think an overhaul would allow our website to integrate a broad range of features that would support the meeting community as well as convey who we are to the outside world. For



Our current website features contact info.

Website Overhaul, continued on p 2

To help new friends understand Quaker vocabulary, here is a general description of the two topics we will focus on.

Spiritual gifts

Talents and abilities that develop through a process of discernment. This includes a combination of individual leadings (from Spirit, God, the Light) and of guidance from members of the meeting that help people recognize and use their spiritual gifts.

Testimonies

In New York Yearly Meeting, the testimonies are often listed as simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship (SPICES). Wilson examines the history of testimonies and the implications of that history for Friends today.

Discussions will be based on the following readings from Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order. Please read the selection before each session.

- Oct. 20: Spiritual Gifts pp. 91-106
- Nov. 3: Testimonies pp. 163-175

Six copies of Wilson's entire book are available in the Meeting library. Contact Carolyn Kenyon clkenyon09@gmail.com for an electronic copy of the specific pages referenced above.

Come to Women's "Chair Yoga"

I would like to invite you to join the small group of women who meet for yoga on Mondays and Fridays, from 11am until noon, in the meeting room of our meetinghouse. Each class begins with a chant, "I call on the Teacher within"—very Friendly!

The teacher, Jai Hari, leads us with grace and humor through coordinated breathing and focused, gentle movement of the spine, upper body, arms, head and neck. We sit on chairs most of the time; there are a few standing exercises, but none involve sitting or lying on the floor. These classes offer me physical and spiritual refreshment, and I would love to share them with more Friends. No special clothing or mats needed. We pay a sliding-scale fee, up to \$10 per session. Call or e-mail for more information: ntg2@cornell.edu; 277-8930.

— Nancy Gabriel

example, the contact information that has dominated the home page since the beginning could be moved to a Contact Us page and the home page could dynamically reflect the content people regularly seek. It would be great if the materials for our Out of the Nest program and GRIST groups were available both to ourselves and to other Quaker meetings. Perhaps our calendar could clearly indicate locations and make distinctions between public events, committee meetings and outside group events.

Such an overhaul of the website won't reflect the community if done by a single person. The project needs someone to take the lead, which I will do, and many people to discern our audience, appropriate content and its organization, appearance etc. I invite you to join the fun at 7:15 pm at the meetinghouse on the following dates:

- Tuesday, October 8
- Wednesday, October 23
- Monday, November 4
- Tuesday, November 19, if needed
- Wednesday December 4, if needed

Part of my motivation for this is to fulfill one of the project requirements for my School of the Spirit program. I have seasoned this with my School of the Spirit care committee consisting of Ellie Rosenberg, Chuck Mohler, Nancy Gabriel, Nancy Riffer and Bronwyn Mohlke.

Scheduling Use of the Third Street Meetinghouse

Dick Crepeau, rhc1@twcny.rr.com, is coordinating the use of the Third Street Meetinghouse. Please forward your email requests for space to him.

Check the calendar at <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/> to be sure there is space available. He would like to see all planned events in the calendar, so if you have an event or committee meeting scheduled, please make sure it is on the calendar.

From the gardeners

Many thanks to all who helped this summer getting various plantings started.

We would also like to publicly thank some folks *not* in Meeting for their contributions. They are Plantations Propagation Facility, Master Gardeners, and Susie Hatch. Cayuga Landscape also gave us a nice discount. Thanks to Meeting members and others we have been able to make a good start.

— Nancy Hillegas and Pat Pingel

Alternatives to Violence Project

Kathleen Gale, Gina Varrichio and Susan Wolf will give a presentation on Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) on Sunday, October 6th at the rise of meeting.

Gina will share her recent experiences facilitating a youth workshop in a school in Philadelphia, we will show a short DVD on AVP, and we will have a time for discussion and to answer questions. AVP grew out of a desire men in Green Haven prison had to reduce the violence in their lives and find other ways to deal with difficult situations. The program began as a collaboration between Friends and the men in Green Haven Prison during the 1970's, using much of the wisdom available in the Civil Rights Movement. AVP is now world-wide, used successfully in 58 countries around the world. Come find out more about this wonderful program!

We will hold our next set of AVP workshops (a Basic and Advanced) during the weekend of October 25th-27th. For more information or to register, contact Susan Wolf at 272-1618 or AVPIthaca@gmail.com.

Gary Rith's Open Pottery Studio

Gary invites friends to his studio at 540 Main Street in Etna on October 12th and 13th between 11am and 5pm each day. There will be pottery making demonstrations!

Main St. in Etna is Rte. 366, between Cortland and Ithaca, not far from Cornell Vet School and the airport. Leaving Ithaca to the north on Rte 13 north, turn onto 366, go half mile (just past intersection) and the studio is at the light green house on the left!

Blank Page

Looks

White with red line

skipping

down the sheet.

Blank but for

blue lines

marching

in formation across the page.

Sounds like

ice cracking

stepping on frozen ground

popping, snapping, swooshing.

I used to know what it tasted like.

Smells like

fresh chemicals

and trees.

So full of possibilities

this sheet is.

A dark drawing?

A pretty poem?

An oval origami orca?

Maybe

It will save the world.

But it's already

full

and it's work is done.

— *Thea Clarkberg*



Fall Work Day at the Burt House, 2012

Burt House Fall Work Day

Come join in the fun at the Fall Work Day at the Burt House Friends Center, a beloved meeting-owned property at 227 North Willard Way. It will be in the afternoon of Saturday, October 26, rain or (hopefully) shine. Jobs for all inclinations and abilities. We will be joined by four to six Cornell students who are volunteering through the *Into the Streets* day.

Friends, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with these young people, enjoy fellowship, get to know the Burt House residents better, and appreciate the beauty of one our meeting's properties.

For more information, contact Friend-in-Residence Shirley Way at shirleyway61@gmail.com or call the Burt House at 273-5421. Refreshments provided. Come for a short while or the whole time, but do come!

Hiroshima Remembrance

On the evening of August 5, there was a silent vigil/Meeting for Worship at the Peace Pole in front of the Burt House to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

This annual gathering has been taking place for years so that we remember the event, the people who lost their lives, and the many Japanese who were wounded and affected by the bomb for the rest of their lives. Eighteen people were in attendance, including four children. Attendees were from our Meeting, Perry City Meeting, and the Ithaca Catholic Worker.

Yohko Tsuji brought the 1,000 origami cranes, and after the gathering she spoke with the children about them.

The remarkable aspect of this gathering was that we had assembled on a most peaceful evening—the temperature was perfect for being out of doors, there was no wind, the sky was clear, a bright sun was starting its descent, and there was no noise from the street. This peacefulness was encompassing and, at the same time, it was such a great contrast to what had brought us there.

October 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 (October 12, 2003)

IMM approved (1) the creation of an unmoderated e-mail listserv [IMMRSF-L] to be used solely for the purposes of sharing announcements directly connected to IMM, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, NYYM and FGC; and (2) Marilyn Ray to continue to publish messages related to the Meeting's Peace and Social Justice Concerns to an email list of F/friends who request such service.

30 Years Ago (October 10, 1983)

The Clerk (Frank Pineo) reported on the upcoming witness at Sampson State Park concerning the Seneca Depot and the deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe, and gave a plea that Friends consider their involvement in the protests. IMM approved having Edith Edgerton forward a letter from Germany concerning the deployment of these missiles in Europe to the *Ithaca Journal* under the name of the Meeting.

45 Years Ago (October 14, 1968)

The largest part of the Meeting for Business was taken up by the presentation of Harrop Freeman on his participation in the trial of the Catonsville Nine in Baltimore the previous week. Harrop was legal counsel for Cornell's Father Daniel Berrigan. Regardless of the outcome of the trial, Harrop indicated that the court was impressed with the sincerity of the defendants and some members changed their minds concerning pacifists. [The Catonsville Nine was a group of Catholic activists who burned draft records in Catonsville, MD in May, 1968. William Kuentsler was the lead attorney for the group.]

50 Years Ago (October 10, 1963)

It was noted that IMM has a sojourning membership category available to members of other meetings who are in Ithaca for a limited period and who would like a temporary membership association with our Meeting. [Note: Sojourning membership remains an option today.]

65 Years Ago (October 11, 1948)

Joshua Cope reported for the Program Committee a very successful get-acquainted party for new students, with 40 persons in attendance.... About 20 Young Friends attended last Sunday's Meeting for Worship.... Young Friends suggested that the Meeting look into building a meetinghouse since Friends might not be easy about meeting in the new Cornell United Religious Works (CURW) building [Anabel Taylor Hall, opened in 1953], which is to be designated as a war memorial.

— Tom Brown, *Historian*

Newcomers

Imagine having to leave your home, your friends, your country, and all you know in order to go to where there was greater safety and greater hope for the future. Combinations of hope and necessity propel people all over the world to make such a move. New immigrants are continually arriving in our own country and in Tompkins County. The initial period is especially daunting.

Our Meeting has assisted newcomers to Ithaca in the past couple of decades: sponsoring a Burmese family who lived in the Burt House and working very closely with an Iraqi family for a number of years beginning in 2007. The Meeting has seen these two families through the early challenging years. All are now citizens, they have jobs that support their growing families, and they are now very much independent of Meeting support.

Recently a request for some assistance with newcomers to Ithaca came from Graham Ottoson, long involved with our Meeting, and two of her friends, Margot Brinn and Marcy Schaeffer. Along with Alice Tewell, Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church, they have each taken on the role of sponsor of one of the four nuclear families that make up an extended 20-member family from Burma. Some members of that family have been here since 2011, others arrived in May and August of 2013.

Three of the sponsors met with members of the Peace Witness Committee and the Ad Hoc Group on Immigrant Support to describe the assistance needed. First, however, they each expressed how their sponsorship role has been fulfilling in ways they had not imagined when beginning this work. They are comfortable in their roles as sponsors, and are not looking for co-sponsors, rather they are seeking help with specific tasks. Then they gave us some basic information on these newcomers. Two of the families are settled into life on Hancock Street. Those families include six children, ages 5 to 16. Some of them may be familiar to Meeting, since they have attended the Bike Clinic. Another family is living in West Village. They arrived this past May and include three children, ages 1, 6 and 9.

The most recently arrived family is made up of three people -- Ah Koo who is an adult woman and mother of K'Pru Moo, her 20 year old son, and Eh K'Pru Moo, her 17 year old daughter who has just started attending Ithaca High School where she has ESL support. The father of this family died two years ago. They were in a refugee camp outside of Burma for a number of years and do not speak English. Housing is an immediate need for this family. They are temporarily staying at the home of an ESL teacher in Spencer, 25 minutes away from Ithaca. Their sponsor, Margot, has been trying to find them affordable housing in Ithaca so they can walk to their ESL classes and visit their relatives on Hancock Street. This family receives funds from the Department of Social Services (DSS) for housing, but the amount is inadequate until they are able to get into subsidized housing or affordable/low cost housing. If anyone knows of housing options, please contact Garry Thomas or Elizabeth Schneider.

If Friends feel led to help these newcomers to our community, there are a number of ways they can do so:

- Transportation for outings and appointments. The families love to go on outings, for example, apple picking, hiking, etc.
- Bike riding lessons or driving lessons.
- Sewing support. Accompany Ah Koo to Sew Green for a used machine and lessons.
- Soccer buddies. The guys are eager to play.
- Visitors. The matriarch of the family is Tha Nay Paw. She is 56 and gets a bit lonely. She would enjoy an outing or someone to garden with her.
- School buddies. Children in the extended family attend Belle Sherman and DeWitt Middle School because that is where there is ESL support. If there are children in Meeting who attend those schools and would like to be a buddy that would be helpful.
- School parent buddies. If parents with children in those schools could help the sponsors be aware of parent-teacher meetings, extra-curricular activities, etc., that would be most helpful.

If you have other ideas on ways to support these newcomers, please share those with Garry or Elizabeth. It is also possible to find out about the needs of the families by signing up at Lotsa Helping Hands: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/655581/>.

— *Graham Ottoson, Elizabeth Schneider, and Garry Thomas*

October 2013 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Website Discussion

Tuesday, October 8, 7:15p

First in a series of Steve Mohlke led discussions of how our website might best support the meeting community as well as communicate who we are to the outside world. See page 1 for more information.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, October 13, Rise of Meeting

Join in Quaker the decision-making process. Agenda items should be sent to our clerk, Antonia Saxon, by the preceding Wednesday.

Peace Witness Committee

Saturday, October 19, 1p

All are welcome at the next meeting of the Peace Witness Committee at the Burtt House at 227 North Willard Way.

What It Means to be a Quaker: Spiritual Gifts

Saturday, October 20, 9a

Discussions will be based on pages 91-106 of *Essays on the Vision of Gospel Order*. Please see page 1 for more information.

Website Discussion

Wednesday, October 23, 7:15p

Second in a series of Steve Mohlke led discussions of how our website might best support the meeting community as well as communicate who we are to the outside world. See page 1 for more information.

Burtt House Fall Work Day

Saturday, October 26, 1:30p

Come join in the fun at the Fall Work Day at the Burtt House Friends Center, a meeting-owned property at 227 North Willard Way, rain or (hopefully) shine. Jobs for all inclinations and abilities.

See page 4 for more information.

Committee Job Fair

Sunday, October 27, Rise of Meeting

This is the time of year when the Meeting is trying to match people's gifts, talents, skills, and passions with the work of the Meeting. We are going to have a time when people can explore where their gifts may fit into the work of committees now or at some time in the future. People representing the different committees of the Meeting will be available to meet with Friends to talk about the committee's purpose and what is entailed in being on the committee.

Fourth Sunday Brunch

Sunday, October 27, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, October 31, 5p

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

Every Sunday

- 9:30a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse; entering silence by 10:15.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a **First Day School**: attenders 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