

Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

March 2014

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

Living Our Mission Through the Third Street Meeting House

Members and attenders are cordially invited to a Meeting Retreat on Saturday, March 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Third Street Meeting House.

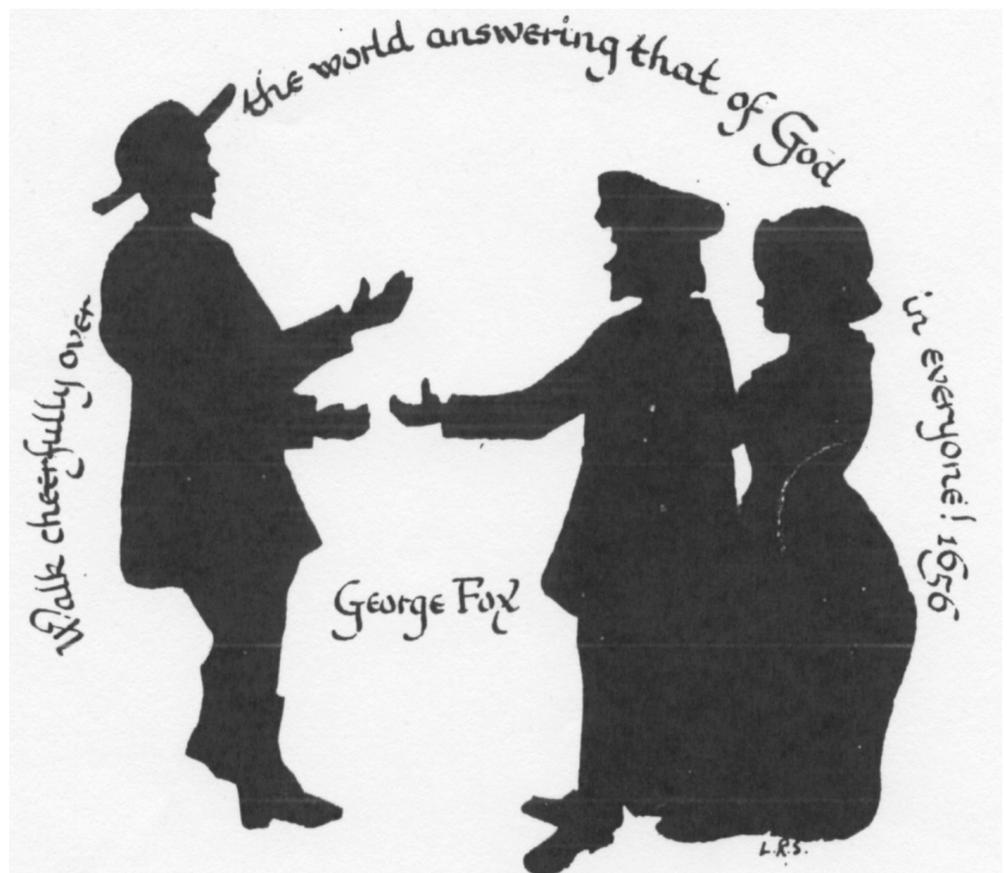
Using small- and large-group discussions and creative activities, we will . . .

- Review the many groups we have hosted at the Meeting House since opening.
- Envision the ways in which we want to relate to each other, the neighborhood, and the wider community.
- Consider some practical and creative ways we can help each other broaden and deepen our Meeting's inclusiveness and engagement.

We hope that we will develop new insights as we share ideas and experiences, but we do not expect to make decisions as a Meeting during this event.

This interactive program will be facilitated by Laura Branca of Training for Change

"Retreat," continued on page 2



"Retreat," continued from page 1

(TFC) Associates. With her partner at TFC, Kirby Edmonds, Laura designs and leads MRC Talking Circles on Race and Racism, and she and Kirby encouraged the local screenings of "Race: the Power of An Illusion." Laura is a Senior Fellow with the Dorothy Cotton Institute.

Refreshments will be served starting at 8:30, and the program will begin promptly at 9:00, with a lunch break 12:00-1:00. There is no charge. We will shortly announce (through the Meeting listserve and after Meetings for Worship) a process for advance registration. Meanwhile, indications of intention to participate may be given to Karen Friedeborn (Karen.friedeborn@gmail.com, 607-280-5208).

If you plan to attend, please reflect on, and come prepared to share your answers to these two questions:

- How does your engagement in the community reflect your faith and values as a Quaker? (Please think of specific examples. If you are willing, bring a list of community activities in which you have most meaningfully engaged; these will be compiled and shared within the Meeting at a later time.)
- How would you describe the demographics/diversity among the people and communities to which you are connected?

— *Wallace Watson,*
for the Program Committee

Peace Vigil Hours

The weekly Peace Vigil held on Thursdays at the foot of East State Street (in front of Community School for Music and Arts) will return to its original time slot of 5:00 to 5:30 pm in March, now that daylight hours are longer. Bring your own sign, or go into Mayer's Smoke Shop and ask for the peace signs. They kindly hold them for us. The signs and the carrier can then be returned to them after the vigil. All are welcome.

March in IMM History

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

15 Years Ago (March 8, 1999)

Children and the Life of the Meeting brought a proposal for a program called "Out of the Nest and Into the World," focusing on meeting youth, age 15-16. IMM's support for the program will be in the form of willingness to serve as Mentors and on clearness committees, support for the young person's articulating his/her goals, and commitment to providing resources to help the young person accomplish his/her service project. It was approved.

Steve Mohlke was welcomed into membership of IMM.

35 Years Ago (March 12, 1979)

Melody Johnson was welcomed into membership of IMM upon the recommendation of her clearness committee consisting of Ginny Gartlein, Mike Simkin, and Edith Edgerton.

60 Years Ago (March 8, 1954)

Nellie Petry, IMM representative to the Ithaca Council of Church Women, reported on the drive to raise funds and clothing for the Albert Schweitzer Hospital [in Gabon, Africa]. Young Friends planned to collect clothing in both the men's and women's dorms.

70 Years Ago (March 13, 1944)

Alfred and Grace Foster indicated they are leaving the Meeting to work under AFSC at a Negro settlement near Indianapolis. A self-help project involving vegetable gardens had been developed. The Fosters will provide technical advice to the gardeners and also assist in a labor pool.

It was reported that 45 Friends were now stationed at the Civilian Public Service camp at Big Flats. [This was an alternative service camp for CO's.] Alice Dart and Lorraine Koch planned to go down to the camp for a weekend to help the boys with their mending.

— *Tom Brown, IMM historian*

Benefit for Jewell Payne

Many of you know my granddaughter, Jewell Payne, for her singing and theatrical activities in the Ithaca community over the last 6 years. She has been in plays at Hanger Theatre, Kitchen Theatre, Ithaca College, Running to Places, Ithaca Middle and High School plays and is a member of Ithaca's own Vitamin L singing group. She is now a junior in Ithaca High School and rehearsing for 'Legally Blond' that will be presented there in April.

This summer Jewell is planning to attend Frenchwoods Festival of the Performing Arts Summer Camp, one of the best musical theater camps in the country. As it is rather expensive to attend, there will be a fundraiser on Saturday March 8 from 2 - 4 PM at Corks & More, 708 W Buffalo St, Ithaca on her behalf.

If you are interested in attending, tickets are: \$20 advance purchase, \$25 at the door, \$10, children 5-12, under 5 Free. Ticket cost includes light hor d'oeuvres and a drink ticket(wine/soda). To purchase tickets or make a donation online go to www.corksandmore.com/events/destination-frenchwoods-jewell-payne/ Call Heather Simkin at 607-339-9809.

— *Mike Simkin*

Meanwhile, in California...

The first LGBT retirement community in the US has opened here, in Santa Rosa, California This is an important first step! It's called Fountaingrove Lodge, and you can visit fountaingrovelodge.com to see more.

— *Sue Wolfe*

Events in the Wider Circles of Quakers

Ithaca's meeting is known as a "Monthly Meeting" because we conduct our business once a month (during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business).

Various Monthly Meetings in our area convene together in what is sometimes called a "Quarter" or a "Regional Meeting." Our region is the Farmington-Scipio Regional; it covers the western half of our state.

Quakers also convene in what is called a "Yearly Meeting." New York Yearly Meeting first convened in 1696!

Attending regional and/or yearly meeting events can be a wonderful and rewarding way to broaden your exposure to Quakers and Quakerism.

Spring Gathering

Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

May 16-18 at Watson Homestead, Painted Post, NY

Spring Gathering is the weekend when Friends from our Regional Meeting (all the Quaker Meetings from Syracuse down to Elmira, and west from there) get together for fellowship, worship, and discussions. It is a great way to get to know other Friends in our region.

This year Lloyd Lee Wilson will be with us. He is the author of the book *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order* with which many Friends are familiar. Lloyd will lead conversations on Radical Hospitality, Covenant Community, and Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys.

Marilyn Ray and Bronwyn Mohlke are our Meeting's representatives to Regional Meeting. They, and many other Friends who have attended in the past, would be glad to answer questions you might have about Spring Gathering.

Registrations are due by April 15. Registration forms will be available at Meeting, and our also posted on the Regional website: www.quakerwny.com

Spring Sessions

New York Yearly Meeting

New York Yearly Meeting's Spring Sessions is hosted by our Region this year, and will be held in Rochester on April 4-6. This is an opportunity to bring our Meeting's concerns to the attention of the Yearly Meeting and to report back the decisions of the sessions. We encourage as many Friends as possible to come and share the worship and the fellowship of the gathered Yearly Meeting.

There will be a multi-generation activity at the Rochester Meetinghouse Friday evening, and Saturday will include Meeting for worship with attention to business, and committee meetings. There are many volunteer opportunities as part of hosting this event. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke, who is on our region's Host Committee.

You will find the registration, schedule, and more information on the Yearly Meeting Website: <http://www.nyym.org/?q=SpringSessions2014>

Powell House Weekend Retreats

Powell House is the retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting. Weekend retreats generally start with Friday dinner and end at lunch on Sunday. Room and board is included in the pricing. For more information and to register, visit powellhouse.org.

Youth: A Story to Tell 4th-5th Grade, March 7-9.

People have been telling stories ever since they could put two words together. We'll try our hand at different ways of telling stories: through words, pictures, movements, and sounds. We'll share with each other what is at the heart of stories: what we think is important to remember and what mysteries we'd like to have explained.

Adult: Forgiveness, March 14-16.

We will consider the burdens we carry from the past as we reflect on what we mean by forgiveness. Why is it so difficult? Why does it matter? Who is it intended for? We will seek to lighten our hearts and release the pain of resentments great and small that we have carried. Facilitators: Margaret Lechner and Margaret Hawthorn.

Adult: Rest, Release, Repair, and Restore, Mar 14-16.

This workshop is designed for each person to lay down his/her burden, rest body and mind, and learn new ways to live and work carrying less tension, fatigue, and worry. Facilitator: John Calvi.

Youth: Incredible Edibles 6th-8th Grade, March 14-16.

Whether sweet or savory, handmade edibles are the best. This weekend we'll learn how to make tasty treats. We'll also spend time talking about our favorite foods, where our food comes from and what's the best stuff to help feed active, changing bodies and minds.

Adult: Nontheism Among Friends, March 21-23.

We will explore the faith and practice of Quaker nontheists and the richness of a spiritual life not necessarily dependent on belief in God. We invite all seekers, to celebrate and deepen our own beliefs and practices, and our appreciation for the beliefs and practices of others, so that we may all enjoy what Henry Cadbury called "the natural variety in Quakerism." Facilitators: Robin Mallison Alpern and Dave Britton.

Youth: Mind your P's and Q's: Pastry, Pasta & Queries 9th - 12th Grade, March 21-23.

Nothing nourishes the body and soul on a blustery March day like a hot cup of tea, fresh-out-of-the-oven pastry and deep conversations with good friends. This weekend we will concentrate on feeding all of us: mind, body and soul.

Families: Stewardship: Loving Care of Ourselves, our Families, and the Bigger World, March 28-30.

How do we answer Spirit's call to love and care for one another? Join us for a practical, hands-on exploration of loving kindness through play, worship, art, and music. In this intentionally multi-generational weekend, all ages work together to develop connections within and between families.

Lessons from a Forest Kindergarten, March 7

Ithaca Forest Preschool is presenting a free movie screening, *School's Out: Lessons From a Forest Kindergarten*, followed by a discussion, at the Meetinghouse on Friday, March 7th.

Can you imagine sending your preschooler or kindergarten-er to school outdoors all year 'round? In Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia, and Japan, outdoor kindergartens (often including what we would consider "preschool" age children) are commonplace. This thought-provoking 2013 documentary by filmmakers Lisa Molomot and Rona Richter examines the benefits and risks

of outdoor preschools. The event starts at 6:30 with potluck snacks and mingle time. The movie will start at 7 and the discussion, led by Ithaca Forest Preschool staff including IMM member Melissa Blake, will be from 7:45 to 8:15. Children are welcome to attend!

Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Fridays

Yes, we're on through March and April. Consider joining us Mondays and Fridays at Third St Meetinghouse, 11a.m. to noon. For more information, please contact Nancy Gabriel at 277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu.

March 2014 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Peace Witness Committee

Saturday, March 8, 1pm

Peace Witness Committee will meet at the Burt House (227 N. Willard Way in Ithaca). All are welcome.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, March 9, Rise of Meeting

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

Buddhism and Quakerism

Sunday, March 16, 9a

Lynn Podhaski will lead a discussion on being a Quaker and being a Buddhist. After some preliminary remarks about the nature of Buddhism, it is hoped that the gathering will open into a dialogue about the way these very different but somewhat similar paths intertwine.

Brunch

Sunday, March 23, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to stay for fellowship and a bite to eat after the rise of meeting. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share with others.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, March 27, 5p

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

Talent Show and Dish-to-Pass

Saturday, March 29, 6p

There is that of God in each and every one of us, and this is the night where we put some of that on full display. Can you play the tuba? Stand on your head? Fold very tiny origami? French-braid your hair without a mirror? Chop an onion really fast? Perhaps you are double-jointed, or would like to lead us through two minutes of Tai Chi. Musicians, poets, artists and *others* are encouraged to share their gifts. We are also keen to stand witness to the skills of those gifted in the culinary arts. All are welcome. Dish-to-pass begins at 6pm, and acts should start around 6:45.

Hold the date:

Five Wishes booklet discussion on Sunday, April 27

In conjunction with National Healthcare Decisions Day (April 16), the Pastoral Care committee will lead a discussion around healthcare decisions, including the booklet *Five Wishes*, which gives an outline for documenting your plans and wishes for care at the end of your life. Stay tuned for more details, but we look forward to this gathering after the rise of Meeting on Sunday, April 27.

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 Burt House (227 N. Willard Way)
- Thurs 4-4:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts