



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2016

## IMM CONTACTS

[ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://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 Clerks:

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johnsherwood@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Mike Simkin  
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### Ministry & Worship:

Chuck Mohler  
607-539-6454 • c1m11@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

Angela Hopkins  
angelaforestglenn@yahoo.com  
607-273-5421 (pref) • 215-510-5334 (cell)

### Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:  
[IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu](mailto:IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu)  
with message body as simply: join

### Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others 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](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)

## Meeting-wide Book Read to Begin September 18

*Not so long ago if someone had called me a racist I would have kicked and screamed in protest. "But I'm a good person", I would have insisted, "I don't see color, I don't have a racist bone in my body!" I would have felt insulted and misunderstood and stomped off to lick my wounds. That's because I thought that being a racist meant not liking people of color or being a name-calling bigot.*

So begins the book, *Waking Up White*, by Debbie Irving.

The Education Subcommittee of IMM's Racial Justice Committee invites all Meeting members and attenders to join us in small groups to read this book, starting September 18. The book will increase our awareness of systemic racism, and how white skin color conveys advantages and privileges even within the Society of Friends.

We hope this project will inform and engage us, helping us to be more fully human, and that it will strengthen our fellowship and move us toward building a beloved community.

Please contact committee members Carolyn Kenyon, Susan Wolf, Ellie Rosenberg, Karen Friedeborn or Ruth Yarrow, convener, 206-512-0688. To sign up on line, please go to <http://bit.ly/2bE3P8E>. If you have questions, please contact committee members Ruth Yarrow, convener or Nancy Riffer.

## Fall Gathering of the Farmington Scipio Region of Quakers

Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting's Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, September 17 at the Orchard Park Friends Meeting House, 6924 East Quaker (NY20A), corner of Freeman Rd., Orchard Park 14127. [Ithaca Monthly Meeting is one of the twenty meetings and worship groups that comprise Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting.] We will have beverages and light refreshments beginning at 9 am, and anticipate the morning program on prison work to begin at 9:30 am. We will break for lunch, then have our regional Meeting for Worship for Business after lunch, concluding by 4 pm. Please bring a sandwich, and we will have beverages and extras to share. If you have a special diet, please bring what you need to be assured you have what you require. Note that our refrigerator space is extremely limited.

Buffalo Meeting is the host for Fall Gathering, and Orchard Park is providing the site.

Orchard Park is also offering a teen program, using photography as our medium. Cameras will be provided. We will need to know who is coming to participate in the teen program at Fall Gathering by Sept. 11. Please contact Kathy Slattery at [kathyslattery62@gmail.com](mailto:kathyslattery62@gmail.com) for information. Any person who self-identifies as a teen is welcome.

We look forward to our time together on Saturday September 17!

*Blessings,*

— Kathy Slattery,  
Clerk of Orchard Park Friends Meeting

## Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship these meals to our distribution partners. FMSC meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world in our history.



Area Congregations Together (ACT) - of which IMM is a member - and some very committed individuals bring the FMSC group to Ithaca every year to fundraise and to actually pack meals for shipment all over the world. Participants can sign up for a 2-hr packing shift, with opportunities for those of nearly all ages (you must be 5 or older) and abilities (you would need to have at least some use of your hands). Volunteers begin with a video about the program and a bit of a sell to donate funds. Then, everyone goes to the packing room and breaks up into groups and individual roles. Then it's 1.5 hrs of nonstop action - measuring, weighing, counting - all in an environment designed to get everyone excited. Our family's experience over the years has been that it is a GREAT opportunity for children to feel like they're contributing, and for adults to come together around a common goal.

You are invited to sign on to the IMM 2016 packing team this year! Our shift is Thursday, September 22, 3-5pm at First Congregational Church. To sign up to join us, follow this link and follow the instructions to add your name: <http://volunteer.fmsc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=957363> or email [zealth\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:zealth_1@yahoo.com).

Not available in that timeslot? Not to worry! There are still other slots available for individuals (not for groups). Visit <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1160172> for opportunities to sign up to pack or to donate to the Ithaca Mobilepack. Or contact Gina for more information.

— *Gina Varrichio*

## Volunteer Opportunity

- \* If you have a car;
- \* If you have time on an occasional Tuesday or Saturday morning or afternoon, and
- \* If you have a desire to help jail inmates and their family and friends stay connected at a difficult time,

please read this.

A long-running program which provides transportation to persons who wish to visit family or friends in the Tompkins County Jail is looking for volunteer drivers. This community service was begun 14 years ago by Barbara Barry who recognized a need. If someone does not have access to a car, getting to see a loved one at the Jail on Warren Road is very difficult. It will involve not only one or two bus rides to the airport or the mall, but then require a lot of walking alongside a busy road. This program works in conjunction with OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Tompkins County) and provides rides to persons on the two visiting days: Tuesday and Saturday. Currently we have 11 drivers plus four who have had to take a break for a period of time.

If giving some time to this project has appeal to you, and/or if you would like more information, please call Elizabeth Schneider at 607-273-3566.

## Kitchen Cupboard Food Bank

The Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard is a food bank where people in need can pick up groceries and toiletries for their families. Two Ithaca Friends volunteer at the Kitchen Cupboard on the first Wednesday of every month, and the fifth Tuesdays when they occur. Volunteers talk with the individuals to see what they need that the Kitchen Cupboard has on hand.

We would like to have some more Friends to help in the coming months, either on a regular basis, or who can be on call when we need an extra hand. The timing is 1:00 to 3:30. It is in the Salvation Army Building, 150 North Albany Street (between State/Martin Luther King Jr. and Seneca streets)

The Kitchen Cupboard was very dear to Elspeth Rhodin's heart. We continue to collect donations on the second Sunday of every month. Monetary and food donations can also go directly to the Kitchen Cupboard.

For more information and/or to volunteer, please contact Ginny, Sue, or Bronwyn.

Ginny Gartlein, 272-3471

Sue Kinchy, 539-6684 / [skinchy@gmail.com](mailto:skinchy@gmail.com)

Bronwyn Mohlke, 220-3219 / [BJQMohlke@gmail.com](mailto:BJQMohlke@gmail.com)

## September in IMM History

### 15 Years Ago (September 10, 2001)

Committee on Children and the Life of the Meeting reported that their planning revolves around thirty-eight children participating in First Day School. Plans in progress include a retreat for teachers and a welcoming of the children at our first October Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall.

At a Called Meeting concerning the tragic events of 9-11-2001, IMM approved sending a letter to all Ithaca area newspapers sending sympathy to all who were directly affected by the attacks, urging that those responsible for the acts be brought to justice through international cooperation and courts of law rather than by military action, and expressing concern about hostile actions toward individuals in this country who are of different beliefs, practices, styles of dress, and skin color. An additional minute was approved authorizing the Burt House Committee to make the house available to groups who feel the need for a safe meeting place or to individuals for sanctuary.

### 35 Years Ago (September 14, 1981)

The Trustees and Clerk received a letter from Ned and Marjorie Burt, parts of which were read to the Meeting to express the spirit of the Burts' bequest to the Meeting. It is their hope that their home will be used as a Friends center, a harbor for peace, renewal, and refreshment. They would like their home to continue their expression of caring and love for the Meeting. Friends may read the entire letter. The Trustees will meet and form an appropriate reply.

### 50 Years Ago (September 19, 1966)

The Clerk (Natalie Kent) opened the Meeting by reading NYYM's message to Friends on Vietnam. It was noted that medical supplies are being shipped to both North and South Vietnam and to the Viet Cong by NYYM through the Canadian Service Committee. Participation in the project is still possible, with the next shipment going out in early October, but Friends were reminded that participation is a federal offense.

Helmut Sieverts reported for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee on a debate on Vietnam, sponsored by the Ithaca Council of Churches. Ed Cranch pointed out that the Vietnam War has given rise to a new form of conscientious objection—that many men not opposed to war on principle are opposed to this particular war. Ed further asked that Meeting support the Cornell Faculty committee on Vietnam, as it appears to be the most effective protest group in our community. A sum of \$100 was approved with the indication that more funds might be forthcoming.

— Tom Brown, IMM Historian

## Pictures of CALM kids, their favorite animal, and why

Over this last month in CALM sessions upstairs, Earthcare was inspired to photograph all the Children in the Life of the Meeting, and, as an expression of themselves, find out their favorite animal and why they liked it. Now that we have this wonderful array of children, names, and animals what do we do with it?

Various conversations on the topic ended up suggesting the idea of a bulletin board over the bench in the entry area to display them so everyone in meeting can get to know them better.

Now the Third Street Meeting House Committee is discussing the idea but they need permission from parents before photos or names of children can be displayed, especially in such a prominent place. To see the pictures and give permission email or call Betsy Keokosky (evk1@cornell.edu or 342-5430).

### Changing the Locks

In keeping with our past practices, Third Street Meetinghouse Committee will be changing the combination of the kitchen door lock on Sunday, October 2, 2016. Clerks of committees, trustees, and sweepers will all be notified of the new code. They can share the code as needed. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, contact John Lewis at 227-6273.

## In Memory: Honoring Our Grief — Sept 25

Some grief is too painful, some losses too difficult to mourn alone. Those who have lost a loved one by suicide, accident, unexpected illness or any other challenging circumstance are invited to *In Memory: Honoring Our Grief*, a free concert on Sunday, September 25th at 3:45 pm. The event will take place in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Ithaca, 309 North Cayuga Street.

As one community member said, “I wasn’t able to attend my mother’s funeral, didn’t even know where her ashes had been laid. This concert gives me a place to return to the grieving process that I missed.”

*In Memory: Honoring Our Grief* will begin at 3:45 pm with the creation of a memorial table. Guests are invited to bring a small memento such as a photograph, sculpture, stuffed animal, or flower that signifies their beloved. They will be greeted and invited to share their stories as their memento is placed on the table.

Musical performances will begin at 4:00 pm. Joe Crookston, Abbe Lyons, and Elisa Sciscioli will perform songs of loss and hope, inviting the audience to join in for many of their songs. Ephemera will improvise music based on the memories shared at the memorial table.

- Joe Crookston is a songwriter, guitarist, painter, fiddler, slide player, and believer in all things possible. His music has roots in folk and old-timey traditions and features songs that tell deeply emotional stories.
- Ephemera is an eclectic group of women who share the love of song and creating improvisational music.
- Cantor Abbe Lyons is dedicated to enhancing the spiritual and emotional power of music in everyday life and sacred spaces. She draws her repertoire from a wide range of traditional music.
- Elisa Sciscioli uses singing to create healing connections, a sense of belonging and acceptance. An accomplished singer of soul standards as well as a song writer, she offers singing workshops for personal growth.

Created by Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service, this event is free with support from Scott MacLeod and Susan Hack, donor advisors of The Sophie Fund.

For more information, go to [IthacaCrisis.org](http://IthacaCrisis.org), call 607-272-1505, or write to [info@ithacacrisis.org](mailto:info@ithacacrisis.org).

— Lee-Ellen Marvin

## Common Roots of Racial, Social and Resource Injustice

Earthcare would like to invite anyone interested in exploring the common roots of racial, social and resource injustice to join us in creating a “Circle of Discernment.”

We have been inspired by the Quaker Institute for the Future’s use of communal discernment to research a variety of topics (see the list of their booklets, right) and by their mission: “Advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity through participatory research and discernment.”

Our Circle will first read some historical accounts of the exploitation of both people and ecosystems, of labor and land. We will then begin the process of discernment by asking questions such as:

- How does better understanding the underpinnings of both ecological biodiversity and cultural diversity illuminate what we know about the other?
- How might these insights influence how we act, both in relation with Earth and to other humans?

The Circle will dynamically change as participants’ interests and inspirations evolve. We will compile an initial shared reading list, but individual reading lists may vary. We will probably meet on a monthly basis.

As a related project, IMM’s Earthcare Committee is in the early stages of inviting the Quaker Institute for the Future to hold their annual week-long research seminar in Ithaca in 2018. Friends from around the Americas would gather together to practice QIF’s collaborative approach to research and writing, as described in the QIF Focus Book: “A Quaker Approach to Research: Collaborative Practice and Communal Discernment,” available online at [www.quakerinstitute.org](http://www.quakerinstitute.org).

This process may result in a book or pamphlet published by QIF. The QIF book *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*

plus several QIF Focus Books are available for browsing or borrowing from the Earthcare section of our Meeting House library.

If you are interested, respond to Betsy Keokosky at [evk1@cornell.edu](mailto:evk1@cornell.edu) or by calling 342-5430.

### QIF Focus Booklet Series

- Fueling our Future: A Dialogue about Technology, Ethics, Public Policy, and Remedial Action, 2009.
- How on Earth Do We Live Now? Natural Capital, Deep Ecology, and the Commons, 2011.
- Genetically Modified Crops: Promises, Perils, and the Need for Public Policy, 2011.
- How Does Societal Transformation Happen? Values Development, Collective Wisdom, and Decision Making for the Common Good, 2011.
- It’s the Economy, Friends: Understanding the Growth Dilemma, 2012.
- Beyond the Growth Dilemma: Toward an Ecologically Integrated Economy, 2012.
- A Quaker Approach to the Conduct of Research: Collaborative Practice and Communal Discernment, 2014.
- Climate Change and Food Security: A Quaker Approach to the Prevention of Violence, 2014.
- Toward a Right Relationship with Finance: Debt, Interest, Growth, and Security, 2016
- Rising to the Challenge: The Transition Movement and People of Faith, 2016

These books are available in the IMM library and/or from Margaret McCasland. All Focus Books can be downloaded from [www.quakerinstitute.org](http://www.quakerinstitute.org)

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, August 14, 2016**

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Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Assistant Clerks: Marilyn Ray, John Lewis

Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

### 2016 8.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on August 14, 2016. At 12:20pm, sixteen Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Steve Mohlke who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

*"May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard."*

Clerk read from Early Prophetic Openings of George Fox:

*When I came to eleven years of age, I knew pureness and righteousness; for while I was a child I was taught how to walk to be kept pure. The Lord taught me to be faithful in all things, and to act faithfully two ways, viz. inwardly to God and outwardly to man, and to keep to 'yea' and 'nay' in all things; and that my words should be few and savoury, seasoned with grace; and that I might not eat and drink to make myself wanton but for health, using the creatures in their service, as servants in their places, to the glory of him that hath created them; they being in their covenant, and I being brought up into the covenant, as sanctified by the Word which was in the beginning, by which all things are upheld; wherein is unity with the creation."*

### 2016 8.2 Nominating Committee

Nancy Riffer reported that the committee has nominated Liam Murphy to Trustees. Friends approved the nomination.@

### 2016 8.3 Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice

Nancy Riffer reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice requests approximately \$170 be allocated from the dormant Program Committee's budget to pay for twelve (12) copies of Waking Up White. These will be made available to meeting members and attenders for a meeting wide read to be done in small groups as part of our ongoing efforts to educate ourselves.

Friends approved the use of the Program Committee's funds for this purpose.@

### 2016 8.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin delivered the report highlighting several balances, noting expenditures and contributions that have affected them.

He revisited last month's report which originally showed a negative balance for the White Privilege fund. This month there were additional donations to this fund that more than covered the negative balance. This positive balance is now held in a sub-account under the scholarship fund.

This activity, as well as IMM's financial situation has been relatively normal.

Friends received the report.@

### 2016 8.5 Other Concerns

An interest for a Facebook page has been expressed and a friend shared she would volunteer to start a such a page for the Meeting. The friend expressed a desire to do this under the care of the Meeting, but was not sure which committee would be appropriate. Ministry and Worship will take up this concern and address the many questions surrounding an IMM Facebook page. Any F(f)riend is invited to share their concerns about this effort with Ministry & Worship.

A friend shared a concern about his observation that there seem to be few children present at Meeting and wondered, because this is an ongoing conversation within IMM's Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) Committee, if this were a larger conversation we should undertake as a whole meeting. A suggestion was made to form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore whether this situation is cyclical, systemic or caused by something beyond our doors and whether there is something we can do to address it.

A Friend asked whether a plan exists for ongoing cleaning of the meeting house. A member of Third St. Meeting House committee addressed this question. A note was made that the Youth Empowerment Group cleaned the meetinghouse earlier this month; they did a wonderful job. While this has been an ongoing discussion, there are some concerns that a plan be put into place in a timely fashion.

### 2016 8.6 Closing Worship

Fourteen Friends settled into silent worship at 12:48pm. before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on September 11, 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Blair Jennings*

## **Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon**

"We call on the teacher within" to restore us in mind & heart, body & spirit through gentle movement and centered breathing. Renewed, we move outward to bring wholeness to our world. In summer it sometimes happens that there are too few to meet, so check before coming for the first time. Check with Nancy Gabriel, 339-7123 call or text; No special gear required.

## **Ruth Yarrow's Book Reading: You are invited!**

Enjoy a poetry reading from my new book, *Lit from Within*, a collection of best haiku from 40 years of publishing in the major haiku journals. The reading will be Saturday, Sept. 24, 1pm, at Buffalo Street Books. The books will be on sale for \$15 per copy. Profits will go to the Southside Community Center.

— Ruth Yarrow

# **September 2016 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Meeting for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse Summer Sundays, 10a**

Weekly summer worship at the Hector Meeting House on Perry City Road, continuing into September. Meetings begin at 10:00. All are welcome. Dreia Spies is coordinating, and will be happy to answer questions.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 11, Rise of Meeting**

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

## **Holding Meeting in the Light? What's That? Sunday, September 18, 9a**

Every month we have someone "hold our meeting for business in the light." What do we mean by that? What are we doing? Steve Mohlke will facilitate a discussion about that. He'll share a very brief history of our present practice. Those who have done this before will be invited to share their experiences. This is for anyone curious to know more about this practice of our faith. After some initial sharing, we'll welcome questions and discussion.

## **Peace Witness & Social Justice Committee Sunday, September 18, Rise of Meeting**

Upstairs, Third Street Meetinghouse This is an open committee. All are welcome to come and hear what we are working on. Current activities include AVP (Alternative to Violence) workshops in Elmira Prison, work on housing alternatives for those coming out of jail or prison, transportation for persons who have a relative or friend in the County Jail and need a ride to get to the jail, and immigrant support. Please join us.

## **Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, September 25, Rise of Meeting**

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

## **Future of the Burt House Sunday, September 25, Rise of Meeting**

Ithaca Monthly Meeting continues to weigh the right use of the Burt House, a house at 227 N Willard Way owned by IMM. We will be holding regular Burt House meetings the fourth Sunday of each month for the next several months, proceeding in the spirit of worship. Attendance at these meetings is strongly encouraged.

## **Newsletter Deadline Thursday, September 29, 5p**

Please send your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg at [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu), or 150 Giles Street, Ithaca NY 14850.

## **On Sundays**

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:20a **First Day School** gathers upstairs at Third Street.
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 11:15a **First Day School** attenders enter the meetingroom for intergenerational Meeting for Worship.

## **Other Weekly IMM Events**

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burt House, 227 N. Willard Way