



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burtt House, 227 N Willard Way

Angela Hopkins
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Listserv:

To join our email list 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 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

Newsletter

Submit contributions to clarkberg@cornell.edu. See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

Trial Period for our Meeting Listserv

We are in a trial period of what is to be shared on our Meeting listserv, (see subscription information, left) to be revisited at a future Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The current guidelines for content are:

- information directly pertaining to Ithaca Monthly Meeting
- messages pertaining to members and attenders even when they are not directly Meeting related (such as concerts and other events that Friends are participating in)
- fundraising appeals for activities associated with Ithaca Monthly Meeting or the Friends Center for Racial Justice, but not other fundraising (such as for school events)
- periodic reminders of how to receive Regional and Yearly Meeting messages

We ask that Friends sign up to receive announcements from Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting as we transition to no longer forwarding messages from the Regional and Yearly Meeting as of June 1.

To sign up for messages from Regional Meeting:

- go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/farmington-scipio-regional-meeting> (or just search for Quakers Western New York)
- scroll down to the bottom, click on “More” and then you will see a link to “Join our Email List”.

You can also sign up by going to:

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/farmingtonscipioquakers>.

For messages from New York Yearly Meeting:

- visit <http://nyym.org/>
- on the right side of the page look for: “Connect with us! Subscribe to NYYM Connect to get the latest news from NYYM, including Spark, InfoShare, email announcements, and more!”

— Bronwyn Mohlke

A Note of Thanks

A recent Sunday morning at 10:30am, I was well enough to have a solitary worship in my rehab room at Cayuga Ridge. Simply envisioning our Meeting room, my mind drifted around to hold everyone's face in love. This is new understanding for me: “Holding in the Light” is not one-dimensional. It flows among us over time, space, attention, intention. Floating with you over these last weeks has healed me. Thank you all.

— Nancy Gabriel



From the Archives: A Memorial Project in Finland

On August 26, 1950, Joshua Cope, twice clerk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, didn't return at lunch from the woods of "Spruce Top", his summer camp in Caroline. Edith, his wife, went looking for him, and found the 62-year-old dead, apparently of a heart attack. Friends gathered in silence two days later in Barnes Hall for his funeral.

Cope had become a professor of forestry at Cornell, after studying at Haverford and the Yale Forest School. He'd worked in Montana, at the Westtown School, in Massachusetts, and in Maryland before coming to Cornell. At Cornell, he focused on maple syrup production and fence posts.

Cope had been busy in the years before his death, notably returning to Finland, a country he had visited in 1932, for the fall semester of 1949. Sponsored by AFSC, he taught at the University of Helsinki (in English, as part of an apparently successful experiment) and received a certificate of merit for service to Finnish forestry. He also explored the country and its forests. He wrote the *Ithaca Journal* from Finland about its forests, lakes, and advice for travel. He told the *Ithaca Journal* in January, 1950, Finns:

"are the most friendly, thoughtful, courteous and kindly people in the world... Anyone who comes there with any real interest and love will find no limit to what the Finns will do to show appreciation."

He also reported on post-war tensions:

He did tell about a Russian practice abhorrent to him as an American and a Quaker. There is an area 30 miles long and 15 miles deep, between Helsinki and Turku, which now belongs to Russia. A railroad is the only direct link between these cities. When a Finnish train reaches the Russian-held border there, the engine is detached and Russian engine and engineer substituted. Russian personnel go through the train and erect iron curtains at every window. Passengers may neither look out nor get out while the train passes through.

The assumption is, Professor Cope said, that the Soviets are building fortifications there, from which Finland could be quickly dominated.

"Between those two cities I took the bus and went around the Porkkala area," he said. "That was an indignity to the human spirit I could not abide."

(Finland did get the Porkkala peninsula back in 1956.)

A few months after Cope's death, the Meeting sent \$136 in his memory to AFSC. In March 1952, the conversation started again, focused on Finland:

Douglas Steere told of the Friends Center which is being started at Haukkulina, Finland. Knowing how deeply interested Joshua Cope would have been in this project, it has been decided that one room of the center will be a memorial to him. It was decided that Ithaca Meeting would contribute \$50.00 from the treasury, plus any additional sums Friends

felt able to give as individuals. We are glad to know that Joshua, whose memory is dear to all of us, is also remembered by Friends in Finland.

Steere, who was deeply involved in postwar reconstruction work in Finland, must have been convincing. Individual donations added \$70 to the project. That June, Florence M. Selleck of AFSC sent a receipt noting that the school had opened in April with an enrollment of about 25, and that "when the new building is added...there will be a memorial room in memory of Joshua Cope." She enclosed a pamphlet, which is not in the minutes, and wrote that:

You will notice that the name has been changed from Haukkalinnä, which was the original name of the property when it was purchased. Viittakivi is a combination of two words, 'viittata' which means to point out and 'kivi' which means stone. In the former is contained the aim of the school which is to point out a new way of life, while the latter refers to a large boulder at the entrance of the estate.

She noted that Douglas Steere had visited, and they were eager to get a report of the school. I don't find more about it in the minutes, however. It is clear from reports at Haverford that Steere lectured there again. Dorothea Blom, author of the Pendle Hill pamphlet *Art, Imagery, and the Mythic Process*, spent time there. I can find reports of Methodist groups meeting there, and films made there in 1999 by the Summer School of International Cooperation.

The main source of information I could find on the school comes from the organization that bought its facilities:

In 1951 the land steward sold Haukkalinnä to the Christian-Social Work Center Association, known today as The Finnish Settlement Association.

The Work Center Association got to work immediately during the summer of 1951 and begun to renovate Uiskola with the help of an architect. Simultaneously, a competition for renaming Haukkalinnä was organized and, as a result, the place was called Viittakivi.

Viittakivi International Folk High School began to offer language courses and seminars. In the latter part of the 1950s yoga found its way to Viittakivi... Time went by and the next large transition Viittakivi experienced took place in 2007.

Viittakivi was bought by the current owner of the Hahkiala Manor and it was again annexed to Hahkiala.

- <http://www.uiskola.com/en/uiskola/history.html>

Meetings and banquets are now the main business of the facility.

Viittakivi's organizational story continues, however. Now focused on asylum-seekers and immigrants, "Viittakivi is showing the way towards a multicultural, diverse, open and interactive society, where different people, cultures and communities can live together and learn from each other."

Even without the Joshua Cope Memorial Room, the work continues.

— Simon St. Laurent, IMM Historian

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, March 11, 2018

Clerk: John Lewis
Assistant Clerk: Bronwyn Mohlke
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.)

2018 3.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 11, 2018. At 12:20pm, 22 Friends gathered and settled into worship.

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

Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer who volunteered to hold the Meeting in the Light and read the following:

O' Great Spirit, help me always to speak the truth quietly, to listen with an open mind when others speak, and to remember the peace that may be found in silence.

—Cherokee prayer

2018 3.2 Ministry & Worship: Memorial Minute for Lynn Grove

Kathleen Gale read the memorial minute that was produced and reviewed by the Ministry & Worship Committee. Two minor grammatical errors were noted and corrected. A Friend shared a meaningful moment revealed through Lynn's life and participation. Friends approved the minute with corrections.@

2018 3.3 Ministry and Worship: Membership Request

Gary Rith has asked that we withdraw his membership from IMM as he feels he has been unable to fulfill the responsibilities of membership as he defines it. Friends have provided a place for Gary to share his deep thought, current capacity and desire to return with welcome to IMM at any time with no regard to membership. Friends shared thoughts, compassion and care for this decision and encouraged ongoing consideration about both the definition and demands of membership.

Friends approved the request with regret and a promise of a welcome return in the future should Gary desire it.@

2018 3.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer presented his report, highlighting specific line items of interest, donations and expenses. Additionally, he acknowledged inconsistencies and resulting corrections to last month's report. At the end of February, IMM had \$33,856 in the checking account and total liquid assets of \$110,650.

Friends received the report.@

Friends were also asked to approve the transfer of \$9 (the result of a one-time collection that raised more than was needed) to IMM's scholarship fund. Friends approved the transfer.@

2018 3.5 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee: Report and Four Queries Concerning Use of the Meetinghouse

Clerk provided context for both the report, itself, and for a way by which the queries might be considered, specifically using a format similar to NYYM's extended meeting for worship.

On behalf of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee, Melissa Travis-Dunham read the report. Friends received the report.@

Friends were invited to join in worship to consider and respond to the queries. All were invited to speak as led from their own experiences. These responses have been captured for consideration by the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. There was unity that this discussion should continue.

Friends considered the queries.@

2018 3.6 Closing Worship

Twenty-two Friends settled into silent worship at 2:07pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on April 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Jennings

Summer Workshop at the Intersection of Racial Justice and Environmental Concerns

Plan now to attend an exciting summer workshop at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice led by Eileen Flanagan.

The problems of today's world are deeply interconnected, as are Friends testimonies. During this participatory weekend, we will explore how the issues of toxic pollution and climate change are intertwined with economic and racial inequality, and how our activism and advocacy can be more effective when we are grounded in our connectedness.

The facilitator, Eileen Flanagan, is Clerk of Earth Quaker Action Team. A former teacher at Pendle Hill and University of the Arts, Eileen shares what she has learned about effective and spiritually grounded activism through her online courses, which have included

over six hundred people since the 2016 election. The award-winning author of three books, she is currently working on a new book called *The Illusion of Separation*. Read more about Eileen at eileen-flanagan.com.

Earth Quaker Action Team is the group that successfully pressured PNC Bank to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining. Their new campaign integrates racial, economic, and climate justice. Using nonviolent direct action, they're pushing PECO, Pennsylvania's largest utility, to make a major shift to rooftop solar and do it in a way that creates local green jobs and other economic benefits, especially in low-income neighborhoods, which have been hit hardest by the fossil fuel economy.

— Nancy Riffer

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

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. No experience or equipment needed. Please check with Nancy Gabriel the day before: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

Springtime Tea Party, Saturday April 28, 3-6p

Chris Dunham & Melissa Travis Dunham invite Friends to their annual tea at their house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. No need to bring anything! Stop by for a short visit or longer. All are welcome!

Watercolors for Justice, April 7

Friends are invited to the opening of Ruth Yarrow's Watercolors for Justice show on Saturday, April 7, 10am to noon, at AFCU, corner of State St and Route 13. All proceeds from the sale of watercolors and watercolor note cards will go to the Alliance of Families for Justice, that supports families of incarcerated people. Phoebe Brown is the director of the new regional office here in Ithaca. She will be at the opening to answer your questions. We hope you can join us!

April 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Easter Sunrise Meeting for Worship, Brunch Sunday, April 1, 6a

All are invited to settle for an early morning Meeting for Worship from 6 to 7am. This gathering will be followed by an extended brunch with fellowship, beginning soon after 7 and running until 9:45 or so. Please bring brunch items to share, as you are led.

FCNL Priorities

Sunday, April 1, noon to 1:30p

Friends' Committee on National Legislation seeks to prioritize its goals and welcomes recommendations from Meetings.

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, April 1, noon to 1:30p

This month, Earthcare's meeting will merge with the FCNL discussion described above.

Men's Fellowship Lunch

Thursday, April 5, noon

Join us for lunch at Ten-Forward, the cafe above Autumn Leaves. For more information, contact Lynn at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, April 8, Rise of Meeting

Join the Quaker decision-making process. Proposed agenda items should be sent to our clerk, John Lewis, by the preceding Monday.

Women's Fellowship

Friday, April 13, 7p

Join us at the Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting.

Peace and Social Justice Fundraiser Lunch Sunday, April 15, 12:30-3p

Please join us for lunch and *invite your friends*. The money raised will be donated to Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition/Rapid Response Network to provide resources and support to immigrants who might be in danger of being arrested, separated from their families, and being deported. The menu will include enchiladas, sandwiches, baked goods, fruit and much more. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options included.

Sacred Harp Regional Sing

Saturday, April 21, 10a-3:30p

Please join us to celebrate the end of winter (we hope) and the joy of harmony and fellowship. Singings are participatory, not performance based! All levels of experience are welcome. "I'd go a thousand miles to *sing* this music," once said a veteran singer from northern Georgia. "I wouldn't cross the street to *hear* it." Loaner books will be available. New to sacred harp? Learn more at <https://fasola.org/>

Last Friday Soup Supper

Friday, April 27, 6p

This will be our *last* Last Friday Soup Supper of the season. Soup and bread will be available. Contribute a side dish, or not, as you are led.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, April 29, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, April 26, 5p

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

On Sundays

- 9:45a **First Day School** for all, upstairs
- 10:30a **Childcare** upstairs, **Meeting for Worship** downstairs
- 11:15a Children enter, **all ages worship together** downstairs

Other Weekly IMM Events

Mid-week Meeting at the Burtt House
Wednesdays at 7:30p

The Burtt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.