



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

**February 2018**

**IMM CONTACTS**

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

**Meetinghouse:**

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**Burt House, 227 N Willard Way**

Angela Hopkins  
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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](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)

**Newsletter**

Submit contributions to [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu). See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

**A Joyful Event in Northside Neighborhood**

— *Sadie Hayes, Northside United Neighbor*

In January 2017, I felt moved to do something that would welcome the neighbors moving into 210 Hancock, and start a relationship of warmth, trust and familiarity. I reached out to Northside United and INHS with a proposal for a potluck, and the idea was met with enthusiasm. By the summer, it was clear that timing pointed less to a warm-weather picnic and more to winter. Perhaps not the time of year we feel like getting out, but perhaps the perfect time, after all, to bring neighbors together and exchange warm greetings.

Northside United members rallied around the idea and set the date for January 8th, 2018, and the location at the Community Room of 210 Hancock, instead of the usual monthly meeting at the Quaker Meetinghouse. We sent invitations in a red bag of holiday treats made and assembled by NU members in the week just before Christmas. New residents at 210 Hancock apartments and townhomes received an array of delicious baked goods, fresh fruit, candies, and a coupon for Papa John's. On the day they were delivered, an apartment resident cheerfully escorted us through the building and helped with hanging bags on residence door-handles.

The holidays came and passed, and one week after New Years, we all gathered, as new neighbors in the Community Room at 210 Hancock. Northside United members were in good attendance, and wow, did they come bearing food! The long table held more

*Northside, continued on page 2*

**Membership in the Religion Society of Friends**

On February 3 from 10am to 8pm, the Friends Center for Racial Justice will be hosting a workshop regarding membership within the Religious Society of Friends. This workshop is presented by the Alternative Membership Pathways Working Group which is under the care of NYYM Ministry Coordinating Committee.

We will examine our structure. We will explore ways in which our faith may be accessible to all whose life and leadings are consistent with the essence of Quakerism but whose lifestyles may not provide opportunity for membership through traditional paths. Centered in worship, together we will explore the Query, "What is the essence of Quakerism?" We will discuss the history of Friends' membership processes and practices, and share our experiences, dreams, joys and concerns regarding membership. During our day together, we will break for both lunch and dinner.

You are welcome no matter the length or depth of your experience, whether you are a young Friend, an older Friend or a person who is still deciding whether you are a Friend at all! Your perspectives and stories matter.

Please join other concerned Friends at the Friends Center for Racial Justice, 227 North Willard Way, to explore ways in which the path of membership can become more welcoming and open to all.

— *Angela Hopkins, Nancy Riffer, Jillian Smith*

than enough food for all guests, including fruit, sandwiches, pizza, chicken, crackers and cheese, desserts, and a delicious charcuterie platter from local business, the Piggery. The venue was just the right size for the constant stream of residents coming and going, and people mingled, just as we had hoped. Everywhere you looked in the room, people were in pairs and groups, munching and chatting, introducing themselves, sharing smiles and stories. As I listened to my new neighbors, I was struck by the diversity of their life experiences, as well as by stories about their previous apartments (too remote, too loud, too expensive). It sounded like they were all appreciative of affordable living in a convenient downtown location.

I know I'm not alone with the feeling I carried home with me that night. It is a new "Neighborhood Pride", a feeling that lives inside, and honors all of the visioning, planning, compromise and hard work that turned a large lot with an empty building into homes for 64 new families. It's the feeling of belonging in this diverse, welcoming and inclusive neighborhood that we call Northside. It's the

feeling that permeated one warmly-lit room on Hancock Street on a cold January night, that all of us were indeed united in our mutual feelings of camaraderie, respect, and good will.

Hearty thanks to everyone who helped bring this evening together:

Rene Funke @ INHS

Organizers: Sadie Hayes and Karen Friedborn

Bag Delivery: Carl Feuer, Sadie Hayes, Rob, and Max

Event Host: Phoebe Brown

Set-up/Take down team: Phoebe Brown, Irene Dixon, Linda Holzbaur, Karen Friedeborn

Cookie Fairies: Farr Carey and son, James, Micheline Contiguglia, Marion DaGrossa, Carolyn Kenyon, Pat Shea, Barbara Barry, Linda Holzbaur

... to everyone who brought food, and to everyone who came.

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## Advices and Queries

Quakers have a practice of using "Advices and Queries" rather than rigid regulations to guide behavior. Below is selection taken from, *New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*, 2016 Edition, and available on-line, <http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/NYYMFaithandPractice-2016Edition.pdf>

### Advices

15. All are especially cautioned against any harshness of tone or manner when administering counsel or reproof, either privately or in meetings. Friends should speak truth with love, remembering that if they would do God's work, they must abide in God's love. Even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of true repentance, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.
16. Friends' business meetings are meetings for worship with a concern for business. When there seems to be disagreement, a free expression of all opinions should be encouraged. Those who speak in meetings for business are advised not to be unduly persistent in advocacy or opposition, but, after having fully expressed their views, to recognize the generally expressed sense of the meeting. A deep and seeking silence can help to reconcile seemingly opposing points of view. Meetings should be conducted in the spirit of wisdom, forbearance, and love.
17. Friends are advised to acknowledge and celebrate our interconnectedness with the natural world, and to share with our children and others our love for God's creation. We are encouraged to live lives that nurture both ourselves and the Earth. We are urged to pay attention to such concerns as population growth, climate change, sustainable energy policies, and right sharing of natural resources

### Queries

2. Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?
3. Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?
4. Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?
5. Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?
6. Do our children receive the loving care of the meeting? Does the influence of the meeting promote their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Do we offer our young people opportunities for fellowship, for service, for religious instruction, and for participation in the life of the meeting?

## From the Archives: The Long Road to Joining New York Yearly Meeting

When Ithaca Monthly Meeting formed in 1938, it was as an independent meeting unaffiliated with the surrounding New York State meetings, under the auspices of the Friends Fellowship Council. Over the course of the 1940s and early 1950s, though, more and more moments in the minutes suggest that Ithaca was looking more closely at its place in the wider and local Quaker worlds.

In 1946, the minutes record,

*“During the year our meeting has either been officially or unofficially represented at meetings of the A.F.S.C. in Philadelphia, the Friends General Conference in Cape May, New Jersey, the Conference of Western New York Friends held at Big Flats, at both the summer and winter Institutes of the Peace Section of the American Friends Service Committee held at Cazenovia and Syracuse respectively, at the meeting of the World Committee on Consultation held at Richmond, Indiana in connection with the Five Years’ Meeting and at the training course held at Pendle Hill, Pa. for teachers in First Day schools.”*

In 1949, a Letter from the Lake Erie Association of Friends Meetings invited the Ithaca Meeting to join them. While it seemed too far away,

*“the feeling seemed widely held among those present that there would be much gained in belonging to a larger group and area that is present in the Monthly Meeting alone. The interest seemed to be in groups of Friends to be found in New York State and readily accessible. Several expressed deep desire to be associated in a frequent way with neighboring Meetings of Friends. The possible influence of the Independent Monthly Meetings in affecting union of the two New York Yearly Meetings was discussed, with the example of the united New England Yearly Meeting before us. It was stated that, if after further discussion, union with a wider association of Friends was found desirable a committee might meet with the committee of the two Yearly Meetings that is considering union.”*

That same year the Meeting hosted a weekend Ithaca Friends’ Conference for itself, noting that its “variety of membership provides a stimulating diversity of attitudes and concerns... also brings together Friends with different understandings of Quakerism, different deepness in their spiritual lives, and different degrees of experience with Quaker ways of handling a meeting’s business.” Its thirty attendees “grew a much more solid unity.”

The 1950s were a time when Quaker organizations were reuniting after a century and a quarter of growing division. Ithaca Monthly Meeting, thanks to its work toward unity amid diversity, was well placed to join newly reuniting Quaker structures in New York.

The first business meeting of 1951 raised the question of joining a yearly meeting, but left the discussion to the next month. At that meeting, “Friends approved asking some members of the Yearly Meeting... to come to us and tell us what their understanding of our relation to Yearly Meetings might be.” Next came a list of questions about where Ithaca might fit into the regional and state structure, what the still split nature of New York Yearly Meeting might mean, and financial questions.

In early 1952, a question about future meeting places suggested that “whether we will follow the example of other Central NY meetings by becoming more closely affiliated with a Y. M. only time will tell. 1952 is bound to be an eventful year...”

By September, the meeting was ready to join Scipio Quarterly Meeting, a united meeting that was affiliated with both the Hicksite and Orthodox branches of NYYM. This avoided the difficulty of choosing a branch, and connected Ithaca with meetings from roughly Syracuse west. Loren Petry “pointed out that he had previously opposed such action, but was now convinced of the desirability of the proposed action.” The Meeting directed the Clerk to apply for membership in Scipio Quarterly Meeting.

In October, Scipio Quarterly Meeting placed the application for membership on their agenda for a Meeting in Syracuse, and invited Ithaca Friends to attend. In November, Scipio Quarterly Meeting sent eight Friends to the Ithaca business meeting. Elizabeth Hazard, their chair, “indicated the cordial welcome which the Scipio Quarterly Meeting extends to the Ithaca Monthly Meeting.”

The Friends Fellowship Council, the Ithaca Meeting’s original home, also wrote in December “that the Council heartily approved of the action of the Meeting in joining Scipio Quarterly Meeting.” (Friends Fellowship Council merged into the Friends World Committee in 1954.)

By February, 1953, Ithaca Friends were attending Quarterly Meeting, joining its Nominating Committee, inviting the Quarterly Meeting to meet in Ithaca, and preparing a report on the state of the Ithaca Meeting for the larger body. In April, Ithaca invited the Perry City, Poplar Ridge, and Elmira Meetings to attend the Ithaca Annual Meeting.

In August, Ithaca got its first formal report from a Yearly Meeting:

“Organic union of meetings at all levels was a subject under much serious discussion.” By 1955, the two New York Yearly Meeting branches had followed Scipio Quarterly Meeting’s example, and united.

— Simon St. Lurent, Meeting Historian

## **NYYM Committee on Conflict Transformation**

The Conflict Transformation Committee of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) is sponsoring two three-day trainings in the Restorative Justice Practice of Peacemaking Circles for April 20th – 22nd in Rochester and April 24th – 26th in the New York City area. This training will increase participants' understanding of Restorative Justice and prepare them to keep/facilitate a peace-making circle for a variety of circumstances..

To receive a registration form, send an email to [heatherm-cook2014@gmail.com](mailto:heatherm-cook2014@gmail.com) with the subject line "Circle Processes Training Rochester" or "Circle Processes Training NYC area."

Circle processes have ancient roots in human history, and have many different applications, from building community to restoring broken relationships. The principles undergirding circle processes are in harmony with Quaker faith. Circles provide a structured way to follow our practices of deep listening and of seeking connection through that of God in ourselves and others.

The Committee on Conflict Transformation envisions circle processes becoming part of the culture of NYYM. They are another resource to help meetings and committees gain confidence in responding to conflict as an opportunity for spiritual growth rather than perceiving conflict as a problem to be avoided. Clerks and members of Ministry & Counsel are particularly urged to attend.

Co-Facilitators:

Kay Pranis has been working with Circles since 1996 helping to implement Circles in the adult and juvenile justice systems, schools, social services, workplaces, neighborhoods, mediation programs, churches and families. She has done numerous international trainings, most recently several weeks in Brazil, and is the author of the *Little Book of Circle Processes*.

Wilbur Bontrager (Farmington Friends) received his masters degree from Eastern Mennonite University with an emphasis in restorative justice and conflict transformation. He is a member of the NYYM Committee on Conflict Transformation and the founder of Partners in Restorative Initiative (PIRI) in Rochester.

### **Quaker Superbowl : Sunday, February 4, 6p**

Please join us for our annual Quaker Superbowl Party! (Or what has been dubbed "Meeting with attention to football" and also "Meeting with inattention to football".) This is a fun time to socialize with F/friends and watch the "Big Game" ... or ignore the game and just socialize. We have space for both options and either watching or ignoring the game is perfectly acceptable. Pizza will be provided. Please bring other finger food or drinks to share.

The gathering is at our house, 105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca. Parking is available on Dunmore or Brandon place or on Valley Road behind our house. An RSVP by Friday Feb 2 is helpful but not strictly required: 607-277-9599, [Mtravis823@yahoo.com](mailto:Mtravis823@yahoo.com) or [C\\_J\\_dunham@yahoo.com](mailto:C_J_dunham@yahoo.com).

— *Melissa Travis Dunham & Chris Dunham*

## **Engaging with the Ithaca Catholic Workers**

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting supports the Ithaca Catholic Worker community with contributions from the Peace & Social Justice Committee. This local group embraces beliefs similar to Quakers, including "a belief that there is that of God in every person," that the sacred lies in even the simplest acts, and that we all can do small things with great love.

Friends who are interested might consider attending a Catholic Worker gathering. These gatherings, of 10-15 people from various religious backgrounds, take place every Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:30 at the Peter De Mott Catholic Worker House, 411 South Plain Street. We share a hearty soup supper, conversation, and support each other in our engagement in peace and social justice activities.

For additional information, contact regular attendees Connie and Garry Thomas ([thomasc@ithaca.edu](mailto:thomasc@ithaca.edu) 273-7567) or Ruth Yarrow.

## **Sitting Vigil**

### **Being a compassionate presence at the bedside**

Aging, Consultation, Resources and Help (ARCH) will be sponsoring an all-day workshop about sitting vigil on Saturday, February 24th at the meetinghouse. See the calendar on page 6 for additional information, including how to register.

This training will delve into what it means to sit vigil—to be present in the last hours of life for another person—offering support and a comforting presence. This may mean being present with someone who is dying without family members or friends available or providing support to family members who need a break from the bedside of their loved one. Those who sit vigil do not give hands-on care or offer advice, but they do offer companionship, support, and comfort. They are a calming, peaceful presence for the patient and the family.

We will focus on:

- being comfortable with silence;
- how to recognize and be comfortable with the signs and symptoms of impending death;
- how to create a peaceful environment for the dying; and
- how best to be present with a dying patient and their family.

Prior to the workshop Angela will provide everyone registered with three articles to read before coming and with a more detailed workshop outline.

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 10, 2017**

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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 01.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and for the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF Inc., on January 14, 2018. At 12:18 pm, 34 Friends gathered in worship. Copies of the annual reports from the corporation officers were distributed. A sign-in sheet was circulated.

Present: Kris Altucher, Barbara Barry, Tom Brown, Marion DaGrossa, Chris Dunham, Mellisa Travis Dunham, James Finlay, Nancy Gabriel, Jim Grant, Blair Jennings, Nathan Kennedy, Carolyn Kenyon, Betsy Keokosky, John Lewis, Margaret McCasland, Charles Mohler, Bronwyn Mohlke, Laura Peters, Carl Peterson, Marilyn Ray, Annalisa Raymer, Nancy Riffer, Ellie Rosenberg, Antonia Saxon, Tony Serviente, Pat Sewell, Mike Simkin, Dreia Spies, Gail Steinhart, Connie Thomas, Garry Thomas, Susan Wolfe, Ruth Yarrow, Gina Varrichio.

2018 01.2 Annual Meeting of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated.

Clerk introduced Tom Brown, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation who convened the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF, Inc., noting it is the 15th such meeting. He introduced President of the Corporation, Tony Serviente.

- 1) Tony Serviente, President of the Corporation formally introduced the officers for 2018 as follows: Tony Serviente, President; Tom Brown, Recording Clerk and Secretary; Mike Simkin, Treasurer. He then gave the President's Annual Report for 2017.
- 2) Tom Brown, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation, read the 2017 annual report of the Secretary of the Corporation and fielded question(s) as asked.
- 3) Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Meeting and of the Corporation, gave the end of the fiscal year budget report. Mike then noted highlights of the 2017 Treasurer's/Budget Report and reviewed several budget highlights, including the following:
  - a) Total contributions for 2017 were \$68,183 or 97.5% of our 2017 request.
  - b) Total income for 2017 was above that which was budgeted, and so made up for the difference in contributions.
  - c) Liquid assets total \$127,723 with no debt.
  - d) Balance for the general fund is \$0; balance for the general fund reserve is \$17,364.

Last, he reviewed major financial transactions/events for 2017, including historical data/ notable circumstances for specific funds of interest, and noted two typos for correction before electronic dissemination of the report to the IMM body.

Meeting received the reports.

This ended the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. @

**2018 01.3 Clerk offered his gratitude** and a few remarks before inviting Friends to gather in silent worship. After a few moments, he began Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk distributed copies of Annual Reports and described the process for the meeting.

### 2018 01.4 Annual Reports

Friends presented annual reports and answered questions for committees as follow: Garry Thomas for the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support, Carolyn Kenyon for Neighborhood Outreach, and Tom Brown for the Burt House.

Friends received the annual reports. @

### 2018 01.5 Query from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

IMM received information from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting that the date for January 2018's winter gathering conflicts with both the Women's March in Washington and the Women's March in Seneca Falls. Regional Meeting has asked whether Friends would like it to consider an alternate plan for 2019 and beyond, so winter gathering does not conflict with these annual events in future.

Friends agreed that an alternate plan would be desirable. @

### 2018 01.6 Annual Reports

Friends presented annual reports and answered questions for committees as follow: Susan Wolfe for Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH), John Lewis for Ministry & Worship, Margaret McCasland for the Library, Bronwyn Mohlke for Greeters, and Jim Finlay for Hector Meetinghouse.

Friends received the annual reports. @

Eighteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:35pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on February 11, 2018.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Blair Jennings*

## **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.

## **Chad Dell & Meeting Outreach: Coming March 4**

Save the date: March 4. Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting invites you to a day of exploring and worship with Chad Dell of Manasquan Friends Meeting. Chad will be giving a message at the 10 am worship and talk with us about preparing a meeting for the outreach process. Meeting will be followed by soup and sharing. More details to come. Contact Anne Dalton, 315-364-8676.

# **February 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, February 1, noon**

The \$10 lunch buffet at Diamond's Indian restaurant provides a great opportunity to get together! For more information, contact Lynn at lynnpodhaski@yahoo.com or Liam at liamgbmurphy@verizon.net.

## **Membership Workshop Saturday, February 3, 10a-8p**

Please join other concerned Friends at the Friends Center for Racial Justice, 227 N Willard Way, to explore ways in which the path of membership can become more welcoming and open to all. More information on page 1.

## **Talk on Jaroslav Vanek Sunday, February 4, Rise of Meeting**

Francis Vanek, attendee at IMMRSE, will celebrate his late father with a talk about appropriate technology for alternative energies — such as the development and testing of solar oven designs — and the work of the S.T.E.V.E.N. Foundation (Sustainable Technology and Energy for Vital Economic Needs) in our area. Jaroslav Vanek, father of Francis and founder of the Foundation, passed away in November. The Foundation has collaborated with partners in Nicaragua and the meeting has helped support this effort through Earthcare committee donations.

## **Women's Fellowship Friday, February 9, 7p**

Join for casual conversation, no agenda, with or without knitting. We will again meet upstairs at Wegman's Cafe. There is an elevator, many food options, and enough room for all of us!

## **Vital Meetings with Melinda Wenner Bradley Saturday, February 10, 5p**

Come help us build our Meeting community. There will be food and activities for all ages. Learn about the Vital Meetings project

and meet Melinda Wenner Bradley, who will lead us in becoming a more welcoming Meeting for children, families and the wider community. This is only the first step, but it will be enjoyable for all. Please join us at the meetinghouse. Food will be provided

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

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

## **Last Friday Soup Supper Friday, February 23, 6p**

Our last Friday of the month Soup Suppers will run through April. We look forward to evenings of fellowship together! If you would like to make the soup one month, please get in touch with Bronwyn (220-3219 / BJQMohlke@gmail.com).

## **Sitting Vigil: Being a Compassionate Presence Saturday, February 24, All Day**

This all-day Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) workshop will delve into what it means to sit vigil. Lunch will be provided. Please register for this event by Friday February 16th by contacting Sue Wolf, QuakerWolf@gmail.com, 718-702-8903. More on page 4.

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

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

## **Newsletter submissions due Thursday, March 1, 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, see page 1
- 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 Burt House  
Wednesdays at 7:30p  
The Burt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.